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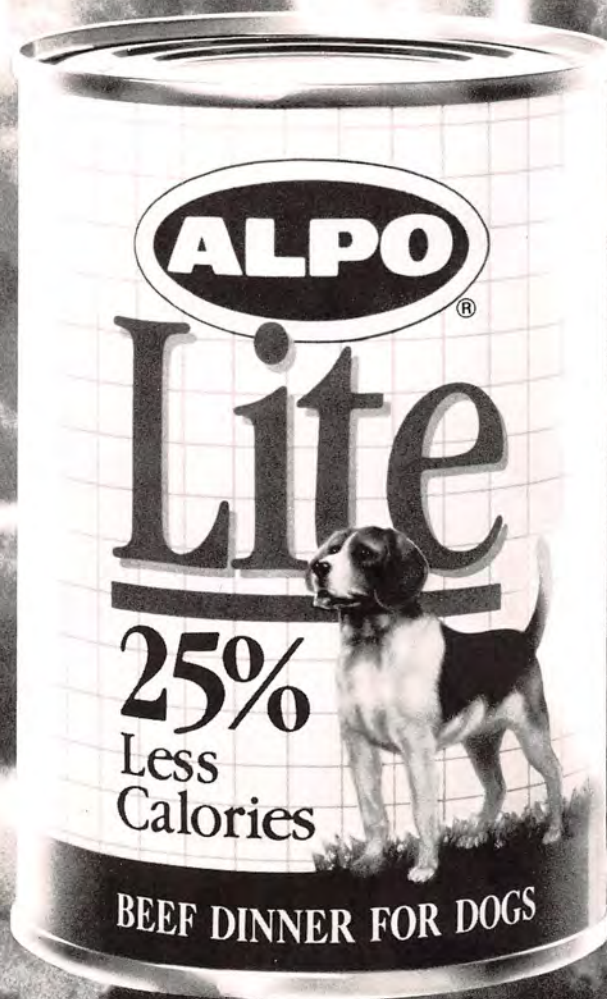
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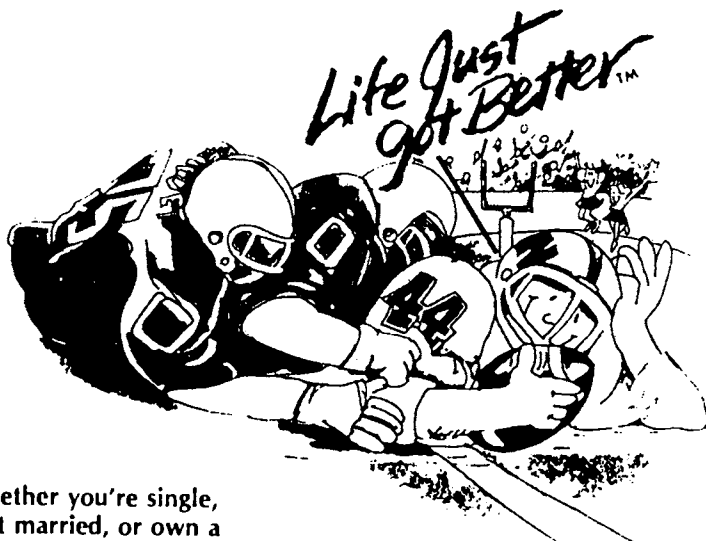
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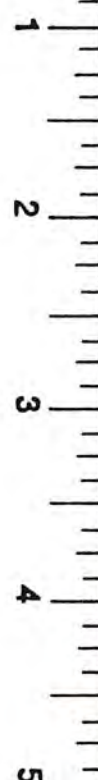
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LETTERS

A CALL FOR CLASS

Dear Huskers:

This is being written just after the UCLA game's final fun. Frustrating, agonizing, yes! Proud of the team in defeat, yes.

The ABC cameras picked out two Husker fans late in the game voicing their opinions about a referee's call against the Huskers by chanting obscenities. The audio was low on them

as Keith Jackson was speaking, but sound wasn't necessary. It was lip-reading made easy for the whole country.

I haven't seen a Husker game in a long time, so perhaps this cheer is something new. I always thought Husker pride passed through to the fans, and we were all held in high esteem by our opponents (except Oklahomans) as good sports. Boy, the

ABC cameras sure set us back on that one! I will always take the heat on Monday mornings and stand up for the players and coaches following a loss. The difference is having to be associated with the likes of those two. Perhaps we all have to remember that as Coach Osborne and the players strive to be No. 1 and run a clean program, so must the fans!

Steve Allely

Colorado Springs, Colo.

GEORGIA CONNECTION

Dear Huskers:

I've been a Husker fan since the latter part of the Bob Devaney years in the early '70s.

I live in Atlanta, Ga., now and the only way I can stay up to date with Husker football is by getting this great magazine *Huskers Illustrated*.

I have a problem I hope your Husker fans in Atlanta can help me with. I watch Nebraska football games by myself. I haven't met anyone from Nebraska since I've been here the last two years, and I'm wondering if there is an alumni club or a place where Husker fans get together and watch Nebraska football. If anyone can help, please call me at 404-435-6483.

Mike Bennett
Atlanta, Ga.

Mike: Again, we'll send out an alert to Husker fans across the country. If a booster group would like to drop us a note with information about their club, we'd be happy to pass it along to those who would like to join.

FAST TRACK

Dear Huskers:

I was wondering who the fastest players are on the 1988 Cornhusker football team when it comes to the 40-yard-dash. After Keith Jones left to go play professional football, I wanted to know who has replaced him as the Huskers' fastest human.

Calen Robertson
Toledo, Ohio

Calen: Wingback Dana Brinson holds the honor of being NU's fastest player this year. He's run a best of 4.37 in the 40-yard-dash. Right behind him

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is Terry Rodgers (4.38), who is the swiftest of Nebraska's I-backs this year. Other speedsters include cornerback Tahaun Lewis (4.48), I-back/fullback Tyreese Knox (4.50), fullback Bryan Carpenter and split end Chip Bahe (4.53) and Steve Taylor (4.54).

WHO'S AHEAD

Dear Huskers:

I noticed as the season started that Tom Osborne and Joe Paterno were running neck-and-neck for the No. 2 spot as the winningest active coaches in college football. But I also noticed how Penn State has lost a game, too. I am really pulling for Coach Osborne to move way ahead of the rest of the pack and catch up with Barry Switzer, and I think there is a real good chance of that happening this year. Now that Penn State and Paterno have lost, has Coach Osborne moved back ahead?

Dale Henshaw
Fremont, Neb.

Dale: Bad news. By only the slightest of margins, Osborne (.8074) is still trailing Coach Paterno (.8076) in winning percentage. With Nebraska's win against Arizona State, Osborne moved into a tie with Coach Switzer for the most career coaching victories of any Big Eight boss (both have 150).

BEST YET TO COME

Dear Huskers:

So some people don't like it that Tom Osborne and the Huskers are consistent, eh? Some of our Husker fans I've heard from don't seem to think our team and coach are "flashy" enough for them because we run the ball on the field and act like gentlemen off the field. Well, if they want "flashy" and fast-talking coaches, why don't they go hire Jackie Sherrill to take their team through its non-conference schedule without a victory. Pretty "flashy," isn't that?

And then there's the "flashy" Barry Switzer and his Oklahoma Sooners, who sure aren't setting the world on fire this season. And, of course, we can't forget the "flashy" Terry Donahue, who put his foot in his mouth



Tom Osborne is now tied with Oklahoma's Barry Switzer for most wins by a Big Eight coach.

talking about "abnormal" Nebraska.

All those coaches are winners. But, you know, they're not consistent winners, and I like that (winning consistently). I like a consistent winner who shows a lot of class, and that's Tom Osborne all the way.

You know, Vince Lombardi was misquoted. He didn't just say, "Winning isn't the main thing; it's the only thing." What he actually said was, "... it's the only thing as long as you do it with decency and honor." You can look it up.

And that's what Tom Osborne and his football team do. It doesn't bother me a bit to have lost to a fine UCLA team because I know we Husker fans have a lot more going for us than just wins and losses. We have Tom Osborne, and that's pretty darned "flashy" if you ask me.

Terry Rockins
Napa, Calif.

MEN OF ACTION

Dear Huskers:

This season I think a lot more of Steve Taylor as a human being than I did a year ago after the Oklahoma quotes about how Nebraska was going to kill them. I have watched Tay-

lor very closely, and I am proud to say he is a true Husker. He has been very thoughtful in his comments to the press and has shown a lot of class in victory and defeat.

I think he has grown up as a young man, and I give a lot of credit to him and to his coach, Tom Osborne. There are just not a lot of people out there who could have rebounded from last year's disappointment the way the Huskers and Taylor have done. It is obvious to me that Nebraska will always have the potential to overcome adverse situations as long as the Cornhuskers have Tom Osborne as their coach. And with Taylor at quarterback, I think we will see one of the finest teams of Coach Osborne's fine career. What will make them the finest team is that they have character. I am proud of this team. I am proud to be a Cornhusker. And I am proud of the Big Red.
Milton Booth
Bellevue, Neb.

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Please address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. ■

His Own Shadow

SPLIT END MORGAN GREGORY HAS A FAMOUS FAMILY NAME, AND HE'S DOING PLENTY TO MAKE IT MORE FAMOUS.

It's an inside joke Morgan Gregory can share only with Terry Rodgers.

Both are the sons of former Husker stars: Morgan, the only son of 1965-67 halfback Ben Gregory, and Terry, the offspring of 1972 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers.

Both came to Lincoln shouldering the tag of "The son of..."

"Every time I see him on campus he'll call me Ben and I'll call him Johnny," said Gregory laughing.

Morgan Gregory can afford to joke about it now. After a sterling freshman

year and a year as Rod Smith's backup at split end, the junior from Denver is making a name for himself in his first year as a starter for Nebraska.

In the Huskers' first four games, the 6-foot, 180-pounder leads one of the most talented groups of NU receivers with 13 catches for 143 yards and two touchdowns. That's more than one-third of Nebraska's 38 completions, and already more than Gregory caught all last year (six receptions for 58 yards in the regular season; 3-for-49 in the Fiesta Bowl).

"There's a lot of good things to say about Morgan," said NU receivers coach Ron Brown. "He's always been a natural receiver — he has exceptionally soft hands — and runs good pass routes.

"He doesn't have great speed but he has sneaky quickness," said Brown. "He was a great high school basketball player. Because he's a very athletic guy, he's very smooth in his movements; he's effortless in his breaks and cuts. It's hard to cover him because it's hard to tell what speed he's at."

Last Saturday against Arizona State, Gregory was running full speed, despite a slight injury to his thumb. He caught all three Husker completions, good for 29 yards including a 9-yard touchdown pass from Steve Taylor 37 seconds before the half. It gave Nebraska a commanding 30-16 halftime lead en route to its 47-16 victory.

The "son of" tag is fading. Morgan Gregory is casting his own shadow as a player now.

"He's not Ben Gregory, Jr. He's got an identity of his own," said his father, now a 41-year-old head football coach



Starting with last year's Fiesta Bowl, Gregory has been on a hot streak.

and counselor at Denver's Montbello High School, "and I think he's done a damn good job of establishing his own identity."

You wouldn't confuse father and son on a football field.

Ben was a battering-ram style half-back in Bob Devaney's pre-I-back offense, who had even played some linebacker early in his NU career.

The sleek Morgan prefers to sting like a bee, not bludgeon like a bull.

"Morgan's pretty much a finesse type of player and I certainly wasn't like that," said his father.

Still, Coach Brown said Morgan is one of the toughest receivers he's coached, both mentally and physically.

"He's not tough in the volatile or super aggressive sense but he's the only guy I've had who has never missed a practice since I've been here (two years).

"He's a very durable guy and he takes pride in that."

Brown added that Gregory is also mentally poised. He dropped a pass — an important pass — early in the UCLA game, but put it behind him and had a good game.

"A lot of guys would have gotten in the tank after that," said Brown. He credits much of Morgan's mental toughness to his sports-family upbringing. Former NU receivers coach Gene Huey, now at Ohio State, and former Husker and NBA basketball star Stu Lantz are cousins of the Gregorys.

"It seems like the offspring of professional football players or football coaches have good football maturity, a kind of sixth sense for the game," Brown said. You can see it when Gregory finds an opening in the defensive secondary — like in the broken-pattern reception for a TD against Arizona State — or when he finds a way to block a defender when it doesn't seem possible."

"Give credit to the offensive line," said Gregory of the TD play. "When you get that kind of time somebody is going to come open."

Of the dropped pass, Gregory said he feels he should catch every ball thrown in his area. "That's just the at-



NU coaches say Gregory (19) is a smooth operator.

titude you have to have as a receiver."

Ironically, Morgan's early attitudes were honed on the basketball court, not in football pads. He didn't play a down of organized football until ninth grade.

"I always played basketball; that just seemed like the thing to do," he said. "I played football, not organized. . . I played it, but I didn't play it."

His father said he didn't prohibit little league football, but is opposed philosophically to it. "It's a maturing kind of sport — you have to have a certain maturity level before it makes sense," Ben said.

Morgan probably got more opportunities to catch the ball playing sandlot games, and had fun without competing, Ben said.

Morgan, however, quickly adapted to the gridiron, earning all-state honors on offense and defense (as a cornerback) at Manual High. He caught 29 passes for 950 yards and

13 TDs.

Still, he figured basketball would be his college sport until December of his senior year.

He was an all-conference point guard as a junior and senior and second team All-State as a senior at what was regarded as a basketball high school. Michael Ray Richardson attended his school, which Morgan said has won more state titles than any Colorado high school. New Mexico and Colorado State offered Gregory basketball scholarships.

But when the football offers started pouring in, Morgan packed away the roundball.

"I just thought I'd be more successful as a college football player, I don't know why," he said. "There's a lot of the same senses to play the two sports, especially for a receiver and a basketball player: good feet, the ability to turn, cut, things like that."

It was the right choice, according to his father.

A Visit with Big Ben

It's been 19 years since Ben Gregory cinched up his chin strap as a rugged halfback for the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The pride, however, lives on.

Gregory, a Pennsylvania native, is now a 41-year-old counselor and head football coach at Montbello High School in Denver. As a Husker, "Pope" rushed for 1,062 yards and caught 36 passes for 456 yards during the 1965-67 seasons, and was a co-captain his senior year. He later played with Buffalo of the AFC.

Gregory said he's still amazed at the development of the NU program as one of the nation's finest. "It's nice to be able to say I was a part of it," he said.

After working as a police officer in Lincoln following his pro career, Gregory and his wife Bonnie, another NU grad, moved to Denver 15 years ago. He returned to coaching seven years ago, and has been a head coach for the past two at Montbello.

"I'm too old to make any step into the college ranks, which is what I really had wanted to do,"

he said. "I'm enjoying myself, though, and plan to make the best of it and eventually go into (educational) administration."

His first Montbello team went 6-4 and qualified for the Class 4-A playoffs. This year's team is 3-1 and ranked ninth in the state.

Ironically, he's coached three victories over his son's Manual High team. "It was kind of fun because Morgan knew a lot of the kids. But my wife was supporting Morgan without any hesitation. I was by myself."

Gregory said his most vivid memory as a Husker was the Orange Bowl game with Alabama his sophomore season for the national championship.

"There was no way I thought we could lose. I had already put that national championship ring on my finger."

Quarterback Steve Sloan, however, ransacked the NU secondary as the Tide rolled to an easy victory.

"It was a great Nebraska football team... it's probably faded into memory now."

"Realistically, 5-11 or 6-0 guards, they're everywhere... receivers who can catch the ball are in short supply," Ben said. "If he was a 6-3 or 6-4 split end, he would now be a college (basketball) guard."

Morgan said the decision to end his basketball playing days was probably tougher than his decision to come to Nebraska — and that choice came after he'd told Coach Tom Osborne that he'd decided to enroll at Kansas.

Initially, Iowa and Nebraska competed for Gregory's services. Both were successful programs, and he desired a winner after playing with an average high school team.

Then he visited Kansas, basically to see his favorite basketball team, Louisville, play. But visits with Danny Manning and wide receiver Willie Vaughn, the beautiful campus and a chance to play as a freshman had Gregory mentally donning Jayhawk blue.

"Blue" also described the feelings of his father, who had tried not to meddle in Morgan's decision.

"I did everything I could to talk him out of it — it would have been a horrible mistake," said Ben. "I admire Nebraska, aside from the fact that I went there myself. It's a great place to go to improve your skills as a football player... great facilities, a great system... they're first class. They do things right."

Morgan, an education major who has never redshirted, said he sometimes wonders how it might have been to attend a pass-oriented school. He also admits tinges of envy when he watches a Nebraska basketball game. Overall, he said, he has no regrets.

"As far as improving myself as a football player and academically, I made about the best choice I could make."

Gregory led the NU freshman team with 520 all-purpose yards, and caught 16 passes for 336 yards and one touchdown. He played in all 11 games last year and started two when Smith was injured, including the Fiesta Bowl where he caught three passes for 49 yards, two on third-down plays.



Morgan has turned some heads so far as Nebraska's leading receiver.

His biggest play, however, was called back. With 3:07 left to play and Florida State leading 31-28, Gregory took a flat pass and sprinted 56 yards to the Seminole 2. The play was nullified by an illegal motion penalty.

After earning the starting job in spring practices, Gregory has begun his junior season as a stronger blocker and a quicker receiver. Brown said he absolutely froze Texas A&M cornerbacks on some curl patterns, and that his improved quickness has made it difficult to hold him up at the line of scrimmage.

"He's quietly getting the job done," said Brown. "You might not notice he's done much until you look at the statistics at the end of the game."

Gregory wants it that way: quiet and consistent, a player you can count on every time. His father had the same ideals.

But remember, no jokes: it's not "Ben;" it's Morgan Gregory now. ■

Although he went to high school in Denver, Gregory is a native-born Lincolnite.



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On the Road to Success

DANNY NEE IS OUT RECRUITING AGAIN AS HIS
HUSKER PROGRAM TAKES SHAPE.

In mid-September, Danny Nee and his assistants hit the road.

The NCAA allows basketball coaches to make recruiting visits from Sept. 17 through Oct. 7, and like everyone else, Nee wanted to take full advantage of the opportunity.

If things go according to plan, two or three players will sign letters-of-intent with Nebraska during the NCAA's early signing period in November. Then the Cornhusker coaches can devote their energies to the season at hand and next year's recruiting.

Nee prefers early commitments. "I think the earlier they say yes, the better off you are," he says. "That way, you can go about doing what you've been hired to do, coaching the team."

When players don't sign letters-of-intent until the spring, "you have to do two things at once," Nee says.

In order to sign players early, Nebraska's coaching staff must do its homework during the summer. In fact, as soon as an athlete completes his junior year in high school, coaches can begin contacting him by phone.

For three weeks this summer, Nee and his assistants went through an intense evaluation process. "Gary (Bargen), Lynn (Mitchem) and I went all over the country, cross-checking names, identifying players," he says.

"Then we went out in a thrust and screened them to see if there was a mutual interest."

From that screening, the coaches compiled a list of some 10 to 20 names of prospective recruits, players who seemed to fit Nebraska's needs, academically as well as athletically.

Those were the youngsters — all potential scholarship recruits — Nee visited during the three-week period beginning in mid-September.

Each was encouraged to make a



Nee follows his recruiting success of last year with a big push for early signees.

campus recruiting visit this fall.

If they've indicated they won't sign a letter-of-intent until the spring, "we encourage them to visit during the season," says Nee.

By then, of course, Nebraska's scholarships may be filled.

The Cornhuskers, who are one short of the NCAA's 15-scholarship limit this season, have three to give.

Eric Johnson and Pete Manning are the team's only seniors.

"I don't know what we're going to do," Nee says. "I'd say we'll give a minimum of two (scholarships)."

To that end, Nee left Lincoln on the recruiting trail Sept. 19. And his week went something like this.

He caught a 6 a.m. flight to Chica-

go, then flew on to nearby South Bend, Ind., to visit a recruit in that area. The next day he drove into Michigan to visit a second recruit. On Wednesday, he returned to South Bend for another visit, then it was back to Michigan on Thursday and into Ohio on Friday before returning to Lincoln for an on-campus visit by one of the players with whom he had met earlier in the week.

Players can visit campus anytime.

Nee had a similar travel schedule the week beginning Sept. 26, and again the week of Oct. 3.

On most of his visits an assistant coach, either Mitchem or Bargen, goes along. But "the head coach is the closer," says Nee, who managed to work in a speaking engagement in Omaha during the hectic three-week period.

Nee's purpose on the home visits is to "introduce Nebraska. There's an old saying: 'You only have one chance to make a first impression,'" he says. "And we want to make a good one."

"I go in and sell us. I sell our program, which is academics, weight training, all the things that make us different from other places. I sell our school, and I sell our town."

Nebraska has no problem in getting athletes to visit campus, not now.

The first year or two after Nee arrived from Ohio University, "we had to run out and ask players to visit. Now, players are asking us," he says. "Now, it's (recruiting) just a matter of making the right judgments."

"It's a good position to be in."

The Cornhuskers are in that position for several reasons, the most obvious being that Nee has established a solid base for his program. Players are graduating — all three junior college transfers he's brought in are scheduled to complete degrees in De-

cember.

Second, Nee's program benefits significantly from the Cornhusker football team's national exposure. Basketball players are familiar with the University of Nebraska because "they see our football team playing Texas A&M and UCLA," Nee says.

And third, the Cornhuskers' recruiting has been made easier by the Big Eight, which has established itself as one of the strongest and most competitive basketball conferences in the country.

Every Big Eight school can capitalize on last season's NCAA Tournament championship game between Kansas and Oklahoma. The conference is hot.

"We don't have any trouble getting kids to visit," says Nee. "The key is getting the right ones, the ones we want (to sign letters-of-intent)."

Nebraska is now in a position where it can be very selective in recruiting. "And I use the word very," Nee says.

Coaches in such positions have to be careful not to over-recruit, according to Nee. That means not getting "too many people at the same position in the same class," he says. "When you do that, you have youngsters who aren't happy and they leave. We don't want that. We want steadiness.

"Sure, it's going to happen. But we try to avoid it. We have to be careful because we have a good nucleus. Now, we want to find players to complement the ones we already have in our program."

The Cornhuskers are extremely young. Johnson and Manning, both transfers, are the only seniors. Junior Richard van Poelgeest is the only player who's in his third year in the program. In that sense, he's Nebraska's most experienced player.

The Cornhuskers' recruiting base remains the Midwest. In addition to Nebraska, that means Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois, specifically Chicago, for high school players, and junior colleges in Kansas and Texas.

The current roster reflects that emphasis. This year's recruiting class included two high school players from

Ohio, Dapreis Owens and Lewis Geter; one from Chicago, Carl Hayes; and one from Indiana, Eric Dolezal.

Among the players in the previous year's class were two from Chicago, Clifford Scales and Richard Smith; and one from Nebraska, Rich King.

Smith decided to leave after his freshman season, and the Cornhusker coaches helped him enroll at Pratt (Kan.) Junior College.

"We can go outside of those areas (to recruit). But we encounter different problems when we do," says Nee. "I'd say 70 to 75 percent of our time is spent recruiting in those areas."

The transfer of Cris Creswell from California-Irvine may eventually help Nebraska recruit in California.

"With Cris (who must sit out this season) coming on board, there's been a change in attitude. We feel we might be able to recruit California now. We're not going to go out there this year but we do think over the next couple of years, we might," Nee says.

The Nebraska football team's success recruiting California and the Californians for Nebraska booster club also give the basketball team a base from which to recruit that state.

Still, Nee and his staff must concentrate their recruiting efforts on the Midwest. They also must still rely on finding "the sleeper, picking out the diamond in the rough and developing him," says Nee. "The fans don't like to hear it, but we're not going to get a Patrick Ewing or Alonzo Mourning to come to Nebraska. Oh sure, if he's a home-grown guy, we might.

"But we can't just go in and bang heads (in recruiting) against North Carolina or Syracuse on the East Coast or a UCLA on the West Coast."

The Cornhuskers must go after good players, ones who meet their needs, even though those players might not be nationally prominent according to the many recruiting analyses.

Television commentator Dick Vitale often notes how many first-round draft picks in the National Basketball Association weren't picked on the McDonald's high school All-American team. And "there's a lot of validity in that," Nee says, pointing to former All-

Big Eight performers and top NBA draft picks Mitch Richmond, Jeff Grayer and Harvey Grant, none of whom were McDonald's prep All-Americans.

"There are a lot of them around. You've just got to find them. We've got a basket-full right here," says Nee.

His recruiting philosophy has served Nebraska well the last two seasons. In 1986, the Cornhuskers targeted King as their No. 1 choice as a big man and Scales as their No. 1 choice at guard. Both signed with Nebraska early.

Last year, the Cornhuskers targeted Owens, Hayes and Geter as No. 1s, and all three signed early, though Geter is sitting out this season because of the NCAA's Proposition 48. Signing Dolezal and junior college transfer Ray Richardson was a recruiting bonus.

Richardson, by the way, was Nebraska's first choice among junior college players. So "we've gotten a lot of first-rounders," Nee says.

"Recruiting's been good to us."

In the past, Nebraska has recruited players and then tried to fit them into a system as best it could. Even in his first year, Nee had to do that.

Former Cornhusker Derrick Vick was a good example. "Derrick wanted to play the No. 3 spot, but we had to play him at the No. 4 spot. He had to sacrifice for the team. That was the position he had to play for us to be successful. We had no choice," says Nee.

"Derrick never got comfortable. He never really adjusted and it hurt his game. Those things happen."

Now, Nebraska is in a position to recruit players to fill specific roles.

If all goes as planned, next year's needs will be filled before this season ever begins. If things work out the way Nee would like, two or three players will sign letters-of-intent with the Cornhuskers in November.

Then he can concentrate on coaching.

That doesn't mean he'll ignore recruiting, though. "We're already evaluating juniors, trying to see who's on the horizon, especially in the state," Nee says. ■

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NEBRASKA'S 48-6 ROMP OVER UNLV ALLOWED THE HUSKERS TO GIVE THEIR YOUNG STUDS SOME QUALITY PLAYING TIME.

LINCOLN, Neb. — It just didn't dampen the moment at all.

The fact that Nebraska played the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Saturday afternoon in Memorial Stadium and not Oklahoma, UCLA or Texas A&M.

The fact that the Cornhuskers' No. 1 offense struggled early on and sustained just one scoring drive of more than 50 yards.

And the fact that a 48-6 NU victory did not match the expectations of fans nor did it satisfy Husker coaches.

All of that did not matter to a pair of Cornhuskers. At least not Saturday.

Sophomore Tom Punt and junior Randall Jobman started their first Nebraska varsity football games Saturday.

Jobman, a strongside linebacker from Lisco, earned the starting nod because of his play against Arizona State a week earlier.

All-Big Eight linebacker LeRoy Etienne, the starter through the first four games of the season, missed Saturday's contest for disciplinary reasons.

Jobman brought his season tackle total to 15 with two solo stops against the Rebels. He displayed his nervousness during the mid-week interview sessions.

"I have so much feeling about this, I don't know what to say," he said.

Punt, a native of Sioux Center, Iowa, waited until Saturday morning to get nervous. That's when NU coaches notified the tallest Husker he would start at left offensive tackle, replacing two-year letterman Bob Sledge, who was nursing an injured shoulder.

Coaches hinted all week that Punt, 6-foot-8 and 270 pounds, could start, but the final decision came Saturday



The Black Shirts limited UNLV to 178 yards in total offense.

morning.

"It was like a load of bricks landed on me," said Punt, who redshirted a year ago before playing in his first Husker varsity game at the Kickoff Classic. "I was more nervous for this game than I was Texas A&M. I knew there was always a chance I would start. I never thought it would be this early in the season."

"I knew it was going to be tough no matter who we were playing. I would still have some nervousness."

Pre-game nerves caused Punt to become twidgity in the locker room.

Senior John Nelson, the starting right guard, razzed NU's youngest offensive starter Saturday.

Right after the first play, Punt returned to earth. "Once I knew what the opponent was like, the nervousness wasn't really there," he said. "My mind kind of switched on to what I had to get done."

Punt occupied the left tackle position for just three plays before Sledge replaced him. It wasn't that the sophomore had done a poor job, but NU coaches had said before the game that Sledge, Punt, and Jake Young

would alternate series at the position. And Nebraska's first possession only lasted three plays.

Cornhusker punter John Kroeker ended NU's first, second and sixth possessions in the opening two quarters. The Henderson senior averaged 38.8 yards on four punts during the afternoon.

The Husker offense scored on Ken

Clark's 2-yard run late in the first period and Terry Rodgers' 20-yard sprint down the east sideline midway through the second quarter.

Although NU totaled 207 offensive yards before intermission, UNLV had allowed an average of 326 per game to Baylor, Cal State-Fullerton, and Ohio University.

Coach Tom Osborne blamed

penalties (NU's offense had five for 45 yards the first half alone) and linemen at different positions for part of the offensive problems.

"You take all those things away, a few new players and penalties, still we need to play better on offense," Osborne said. "I just felt like we were missing some blocks early and went to sleep on some things."

Nebraska sandwiched its two first-half offensive scores around a touchdown by the defense.

Mike Croel faked a blocker, sneaked through the created opening on fourth-and-14 and blocked a Tony Rhynes punt early in the second period. "I spread out my arms to make sure and get the ball" said Croel.

Cartier Walker scooped up the football and rambled 34 yards for Nebraska's first touchdown following a blocked punt since November 12, 1983, when Dan Casterline scored after Guy Rozier blocked a Kansas punt.

"I was like a kid in the candy store for the first time," Walker said.

The blocked punt and resulting touchdown contributed to NU's 20-0 halftime advantage.

Nebraska quickly made the score 28-0 after Broderick Thomas forced UNLV quarterback Charles Price to fumble at the Rebel 6 with less than a minute gone in the third period.

Willie Griffin recovered the fumble and three plays later, Clark scored his second TD on a five-yard run.

"We scored a couple of touchdowns off a blocked punt and a recovered fumble on their 6," Osborne said. "The number of times we drove the ball and looked like ourselves was not very many. I just didn't feel like the concentration was there."

"I think we went out there a little bit like we were going to be playing our scout team."

UNLV proved more formidable an opponent than an NU scout team, however. The Rebels immediately impressed upon the Cornhuskers and the 76,398 fans they meant business.

Nebraska won the opening coin toss and elected to receive the football. Nevada-Las Vegas' place kicker dribbled the kickoff down the middle



Steve Taylor (9) ran for 67 yards and passed for 56 more.

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 47, UNLV 6

UNLV.....	0	0	0	6	— 6
Nebraska.....	7	13	15	13	— 48

- NU — Clark 2 run (Barrios kick).
- NU — C. Walker 34 blocked punt return (Barrios kick).
- NU — Rodgers 20 run (kick failed).
- NU — Clark 5 run (Kratzenstein pass from Taylor).
- NU — Clark 1 run (Drennan kick).
- UNLV — Cook 53 FG.
- NU — Carpenter 27 run (Drennan kick).
- UNLV — Cook 54 FG.
- NU — Baldwin 2 run (run failed).

Attendance: 76,398

of the field. NU second-team offensive guard Bill Bobbora recovered the ball at UNLV's 48, but the Huskers failed to score on their initial possession.

"We wanted Nebraska to know we came here to play a football game," said Nevada-Las Vegas coach Wayne Nunnely. "We weren't going to come out and be bashful, kick the ball to them, and let them return it down our throats."

Well, those white flags waving along the sidelines during the playing of the national anthem weren't signs of surrender then, huh?

The red crosses in those white flags represented the Red Cross, who sponsored First Aid Team Day and sought donations throughout the stadium, and not a summons for team doctors to the UNLV bench.

As a matter of fact, Nebraska had the first injured player, reserve offensive guard Jim Wanek, who suffered a mild concussion during the onsidess kickoff.

UNLV entered Saturday's Cornhusker tilt on a high note after defeating Ohio University. The Rebels suffered six turnovers in a 20-10 loss to fellow Big West Conference member Cal State-Fullerton, a team UNLV felt it could defeat.

In his third year as Rebel coach, Nunnely brought just 58 players to Lincoln. "I have no idea why we're playing Nebraska. It's not a game that as a coach you can look forward to playing," he said before the game.

But UNLV players "came here with self respect and they want to leave here with self respect," said Stephen Nover, who covers the Rebel program for the *Las Vegas Review Journal*.

"They are not thinking upset or anything. They're under no pressure. No one in Las Vegas is expecting them to play a close game."

After playing conservative football during their first three games, the Rebels pulled a few surprises against the Cornhuskers.

Besides the onsidess kick to begin the game, UNLV used a quadruple offensive set, with four receivers on a side.

Turnback blocks by the Rebel



Tyreese Knox (34) helped give NU a solid one-two punch at fullback.

offensive line briefly confused the NU defense. A little size deception stopped the Husker rushing game, for a while.

Punt could not see the Rebel linebacker he was supposed to block on NU's counter sweeps. The linebackers sucked inside the defensive tackle and "he was breaking up the plays," Punt said.

Eventually, NU tight ends blocked the linebacker instead of the pulling tackle.

That was one adjustment Cornhusker coaches made during sideline sessions.

"We had a couple of group meetings on the sideline to try and iron things out," said Tyreese Knox.

NU's offense picked up after intermission, when the Cornhuskers gained 299 of their 500 total yards.

Sixteen Huskers eventually carried the football. Clark led all rushers with 79 yards on 14 carries, followed by

Steve Taylor (11-67), Knox (8-57), Rodgers (11-50), Bryan Carpenter (5-59, including a 27-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter), and Leodis Flowers (3-38).

At 6:37 of the third stanza, Knox carried over right tackle for a 17-yard gain. That rush put the senior from Daly City, Calif., over the 1,000-yard mark for his career.

Knox became the 31st Cornhusker to rush for 1,000 or more career yards. At the end of the day his career stats totaled 1,009 yards on 156 carries.

Ironically, Knox reached the milestone while running from the fullback position. He practiced at fullback in the spring of 1986, but served as alternate I-back until the Arizona State game.

"I feel comfortable. I've played it twice now," said Knox, who thinks the switch will help him in the long run. "Coaches like backs that can do a number of things — block, catch the

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Thomas Overpowers UNLV

Although he did not even play a full three quarters Saturday afternoon, NU outside linebacker Broderick Thomas gave UNLV enough problems.

The returning All-American led a Black Shirt unit which kept the Rebels out of the end zone, preventing them from generating any big plays. Thomas was credited with just

three tackles, but he contributed in ways unnoticed in a glance at statistics.

He rushed UNLV quarterback Charles Price into throwing three of his incompletions, and caused Price's third-quarter fumble that Willie Griffin recovered at the Rebel 6. Nebraska went on to score 28 second-half points.

Nebraska "has a great defense, especially their defensive ends," Price said. "I have to give a compliment to Broderick Thomas. He's a good finesse player with a lot of speed on the outside."

Thomas increased his career total tackles to 189, which ties him for 13th with Bob Nelson on the all-time Nebraska list.

He leads the Cornhuskers with 45 total tackles in 1988.

Thomas and the other Black Shirts first caused UNLV to abandon its running game and then bore down on the passing attack.

Price attempted 37 passes and completed 14 for 120 yards. Many of his incompletions were caused by pressure from NU rushers.

"If he throws the ball and doesn't complete it . . . the defensive line has done their job, if you can get him to throw the ball early," Griffin said.

Ken Clark, Steve Taylor, and Dana Brinson gave Thomas competition for player of the week honors. ■



**Thomas (89)
made a big
impact with
big stats.**

ball, and also run the ball."

Unaware of reaching the 1,000-yard plateau, Knox received some jabbing from teammates after the game. He thought they were joking.

"I wish I would have known that before the game. It probably would have been a bigger incentive."

NU's defenders did have incentive Saturday — not to give up the big play. "We've given up some big plays this year and this is the time to cut those out," said Jobman earlier in the week.

UNLV totaled 178 yards against the Huskers. The Rebels rushed 23 times for 58 yards and Price completed 14 of the 37 passes he threw for 120 yards.

The Black Shirts did not yield a play of 20 yards or more all day.

"It was exactly what we hoped for, not letting them get in the end zone," said Griffin, who led NU with four total tackles. "We just got into them and did not let them make the big play. They had to pass today and they didn't get it done."

Because 48 Huskers played defense Saturday, no one player accumulated high tackle totals. Seven Nebraska defenders — Lawrence Pete, Thomas, Mark Hagge, Chris Caliendo, Lorenzo Hicks, Reggie Cooper, and Brian Miller — recorded three tackles.

Nebraska ended its non-conference schedule with a 4-1 record and opens



Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride saw the Black Shirts keep UNLV out of the end zone.

Big Eight play against Kansas. "Games like UNLV and Kansas will be about the same," Punt said.

That's not necessarily good news for the Cornhuskers in terms of getting emotionally ready to play. It was

tough against the Rebels.

"I'm glad to get by that game," Osborne said. "It's kind of a no-win situation. There's a lot of down-side risks. If you play close, it's a disaster or considered a loss." ■

Photo by John Bills

SEASON RECAP	8/27 A&M	9/3 USU	9/10 UCLA	9/24 ASU	10/1 UNLV	10/8 KU	10/15 OSU	10/22 KSU	10/29 MU	11/5 ISU	11/12 CU	11/9 OU	BOWL	SEASON AVERAGE
First Downs	19	34	21	29	26									26
Yards Rushing	201	421	260	441	444									353
Yards Passing	125	169	125	29	56									101
Fumbles - Lost	5-3	0-0	2-1	2-0	1-0									2-1
Time of Possession	60%	54%	44%	57%	59%									55%
Third Down Conversions	50%	50%	46%	45%	56%									49%
Final Score	23-14	63-14	28-41	47-16	48-6									42-18

Saturday's crowd of 76,398 represented the 158th consecutive sellout in Memorial Stadium, a continuing NCAA record.

The largest crowd UNLV had previously played before was about 68,000 fans in 1985 when the Rebels traveled to Wisconsin to play the Badgers.

UNLV's Sam Boyd Silver Bowl seats 32,000. Upon playing in NU's Memorial Stadium with 76,000-plus fans dressed in red and white, Rebel coaches told their players to "just pretend they're Las Vegas fans up in the stands."

Nevada-Las Vegas has only 72 players on scholarship and only 10 starters returning from last year's 5-6 team.

The program is only 21 years old. "It's still pretty much up in the air if football is going to make it in Las Vegas," said Stephen Nover, who covers UNLV football for the *Las Vegas Review Journal*.

Nebraska continued its series of slow starts against UNLV. For the season, the Cornhuskers have been outscored 48-30 in the opening quarter and players and coaches alike cannot explain it.

"We're still having trouble the first quarter," said I-back Ken Clark, who led Nebraska with 79 rushing yards and three touchdowns. "It's just a matter of everybody getting ready to go."

"We have to get something out of our first drive and build from there. The longer we play a good team, that will hurt our defense."

Nebraska improved its overall record against Big West Conference schools to 8-0-0. Saturday marked the first appearance for UNLV against a Big Eight team.

The Cornhuskers owned a decisive edge in several statistical areas Saturday. Nebraska had possession of the football for 35:22, while UNLV owned

the ball 24:38.

NU successfully converted on third down 9-of-16 attempts while the Rebels were 5-for-18 on third downs.

On the average, Nebraska started its drives on the NU 41 while UNLV took possession at its 26.

Nebraska owned decided advantages in first downs (26-10), rushing yards (444-58), return yards (150-11), and total offensive plays (75-62).

The rushing total established a new season high for Nebraska and eight penalties equaled NU's season's high versus UCLA.

Nevada-Las Vegas head coach Wayne Nunnely: "I'm very, very proud of the way our kids fought the entire game. I feel good about the effort of our team."

"Nebraska has a great football program and we're not ready to play this caliber of football every week. Not too many teams are going to come into Lincoln and come out with a win."

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"I felt the fans here at Nebraska were really classy. They treated us great when we were going out and there was no abusive language. They respected our effort and applauded us as we came off the field."

By finishing its 1988 pre-Big Eight schedule with a 4-1 record, Nebraska has now completed its last six non-conference slates with one or fewer losses.

The last multiple-loss preseason came in 1981 when the Cornhuskers lost to both Iowa (10-7) and Penn State (30-24) before going through the league schedule undefeated.

Nebraska opens the Big Eight season Saturday at Kansas. The Cornhuskers have won 13 consecutive conference openers.

Missouri last defeated NU in a Cornhusker league opener in 1974, 21-10. During that 13-year streak, the Huskers have begun the Big Eight season with four wins against Kansas (16-0 in 1975, 42-0 in 1979, 54-0 in 1980, and 54-2 in 1987) and four victories versus Oklahoma State (14-10 in 1983, 17-3 in 1984, 34-24 in 1985, and 30-10 in 1986).

UNLV placekicker Jim Cook booted a school-record-tying 53-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter Saturday before breaking his own mark with a 54-yarder midway through the period.

Both field goals just barely cleared the cross bar and gave Cook a 32-for-38 career field goal record at UNLV.

Ninety-eight Cornhuskers, including seven players listed as freshmen, saw action against UNLV.

I-back Leodis Flowers (3 rushes, 38 yards), tight end Chris Garrett, quarterback Mickey Joseph (1 rush, 22 yards), fullback Lance Lewis (3 rushes, 16 yards), wingback Nate Turner (1 reception, 7 yards), I-back Scott Baldwin (1 rush, 2 yards, 1 touch-down), and safety Steve Carmer (1 tackle) all played.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne now owns a 16-year career mark of 151-35-2 at Nebraska. Nunnely is 12-14-0 in his third year at UNLV, his alma mater.

NU quarterback Steve Taylor threw

for 56 yards and rushed for 67 more to move his career total offense figures to 3,913, just 87 yards shy of becoming Nebraska's fifth player to reach the 4,000 yard mark.

His six completions pushed Taylor to sixth on the career list with 153.

Nebraska senior wingback Dana Brinson experienced his second straight productive day.

After returning three punts for 80 yards — including a 75-yard touch-down — and three kickoffs 69 yards against Arizona State, Brinson gained 109 all-purpose yards versus the Rebels.

Brinson returned four punts for 54 yards, including one of 22. He also caught a pair of Taylor passes for 21 yards.

Morgan Gregory, a junior split end, added to his team-leading receiving totals. Two receptions against UNLV for 21 yards brought Gregory's season totals to 15 catches for 164 yards.

Basketball head coach Danny Nee and his Huskers are planning a spectacular tipoff to the 1988-89 season as Nebraska hosts a late-night scrimmage on Oct. 14 — or is it Oct. 15? Actually, Nebraska's first scrimmage of the year will officially begin at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15 (the first day Division I schools can practice as a unit), but this athletic event will only be the culmination of a big night of activity that starts Friday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 p.m., when a courageous group of Husker alumni will play an exhibition.

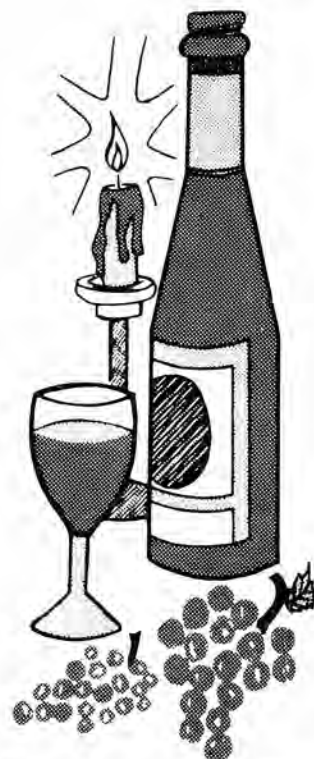
The old-timers will include such former Huskers as Herschell Turner (1958-60), Al Maxey (1959-60), Chuck Jura (1970-72), Milton Whitehead (1948-50), Walter Hernion (1932-33) and others. Turner (guard), Jura (center) and Whitehead (forward) were all-conference performers during their varsity days.

Admission is free to the public.

However, there's more. Swimming and gymnastic exhibitions by current Huskers will be performed that evening. All activities will be in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

On the Cover: I-back Terry Rodgers scores from 20 yards out against UNLV. Photo by John Bills. ■

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What Are Friends For?

Willie Griffin was almost incensed.

This is not the kind of football game he learned to play.

This was not the kind of football where you beat your head against a tackling dummy, a scout team opponent or anything else for all your life.

"Their quarterback was saying stuff like 'don't hurt me,'" Griffin said referring to Nevada-Las Vegas quarterback Charles Price.

"He was talking almost all game long about how he was a good buddy of Broderick Thomas or something," Griffin said. "I guess they went to the same high school. And I didn't care; he wasn't a friend of mine, and Broderick didn't act like he was very friendly either when the play was on."

So Price got to spend a lot of time with Griffin and Thomas and the rest of the Nebraska defense during Saturday's 48-6 Nebraska victory.

Griffin has been partially responsible for Nebraska's new, improved pass rush, coming from the defensive interior and UNLV can testify that he makes a difference.

Utah State quarterback Brent Snyder and Arizona State quarterback Daniel Ford can also attest to the fact that Nebraska's pass rush from the inside is good and getting better.

Once considered a definite weakness of the entire Nebraska team this year, the defensive line may be building into one of the strong points.

The improvement at middle guard with the return of Lawrence Pete, the improved play of Mike Murray and the steady improvement of defensive tackle Paul Brumgardt has also helped.

"But it is Griffin who has made the greatest difference since August," Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said.

"Willie is very good. He takes up a lot of space and he's very hard to move around in there," McBride said.

In the week after Nebraska's loss to UCLA everybody on defense had to tackle each other. An unofficial survey said that Griffin, a former tight

end, was one of the hardest to tackle.

Even though he didn't start against Texas A&M in the Kickoff Classic, Griffin is the leading tackler among inside players by far with 15 solos, six assists and two tackles for losses.

His constant pressure on UNLV's backfield helped free other Nebraska defenders to increase the damage.

Griffin got his first fumble recovery when Thomas knocked a ball loose. Griffin smothered the ball at the UNLV 6-yard line to set up a touchdown.

"Willie is very good. He takes up a lot of space and he's very hard to move around in there."

— Charlie McBride.

"I was just there and Brodrick (Thomas) got all over the guy and here came the ball," Griffin said.

But it wasn't just chance. Nebraska coaches have praised the steady improvement in Griffin's play as being one of the reasons he's being counted on to do more and more each game.

"Willie has worked hard to improve and his agility is improving, too," Head Coach Tom Osborne said.

For Griffin, the UNLV game was a good sign for him and the rest of the defense.

"We finally got a full game. We didn't let them in the end zone," Griffin said. "The first drive they got a couple of first downs, but we kept our heads on straight and we got to shut them down."

"I think by the end of the first quarter we had their quarterback afraid."

Not counting the first quarter, Nebraska has mashed opponents

172-52 and the Cornhusker defense has carried a lot of the responsibility.

"We keep talking to each other to keep each other in the game," Griffin said. "And once somebody makes a good play, somebody else has a good play and it just kind of builds."

It took awhile to build the momentum against UNLV and that should help in future games, Griffin said.

"We want to get on top and control a game from start to finish," he said. "Kansas can beat you, Oklahoma State can beat you, anybody can beat you if you're not in the game from the start and putting the kind of pressure we have to put on a team."

Griffin, a native of Monrovia, Calif., has worked hard on getting himself ready to play every game. He battled with his weight problem, dropping from 280 to 270 in the last few weeks and he hopes to get even lighter to improve his speed and mobility.

"At 265 pounds, Willie could be an excellent defensive tackle," McBride said. "He has everything else going for him. All the tools the pros look for. I'd say he'd have a great chance at the pros if he could lose and keep off a few more pounds. Still, with the weight he's our second fastest defensive lineman (4.95 in the 40) and he's more powerful than most defensive linemen you'll see."

And his most important asset, the one thing that can make Griffin into one of the best defensive linemen around, is his attitude, McBride said.

"He's done everything with a positive attitude and now he's learning to become one of the leaders," he said. "We see a lot of good things for Willie in the future."

Griffin agrees, but from a team standpoint. "We can get better. We can make the difference this season. If we do our job, then Steve Taylor and the offense can have a good time and we'll get where we want to go," he said.

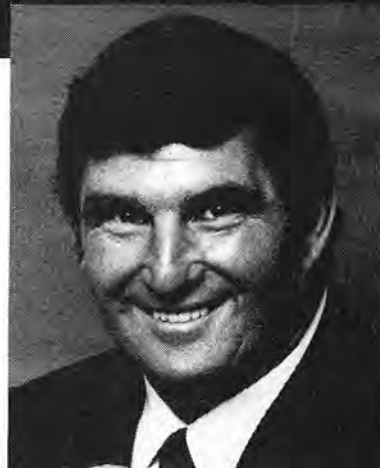
Certainly, it'll be an easier road with Griffin on board. ■

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06M

Mike Babcock

Slow Starts, Fast Finishes

Todd Millikan was ready to play.

The folks in his hometown of Shenandoah, Iowa, designated Nebraska's final non-conference game with Nevada-Las Vegas "Todd Millikan Day."

"I was pretty pumped for the game," the senior tight end said after the Cornhuskers' 48-6 victory. "Actually, I was more nervous before this game than any other game this year.

"I don't know why."

The reason, of course, was that Millikan wanted to play well for the approximately 100 fans who made the drive from Shenandoah to Lincoln. That out-manned Nevada-Las Vegas was the opponent made no difference to him.

Millikan had no difficulty

maintaining his concentration, his intensity.

However, the same couldn't be said for many of his Nebraska teammates.

"A lot of guys said they just felt sluggish," said Millikan.

That's understandable enough.

"It's hard to get up for a team like Nevada-Las Vegas," he said. "But if there had been some turnovers, they could've made it close."

Tom Osborne made a similar observation during his post-game news conference. Nebraska's head coach wasn't happy with his team's play, particularly on offense. In the locker room at halftime, "he told us we played probably the worst first half he'd seen in a while," Millikan continued.

"I've been around here for five

years myself, and I'd say that, too."

Senior defensive tackle Willie Griffin said the Cornhuskers "were a little laid back and it was a struggle to keep our heads in the game."

Junior wingback Richard Bell was more blunt, especially about the play of the offense much of the first half. "We were embarrassing ourselves," he said. "We were flat, no doubt about it.

"You hate to say somebody's not very good, but we thought we could move the ball against them (Nevada-Las Vegas)."

Eventually, Nebraska did. The Cornhuskers rolled up 500 yards and averaged 6.7 yards per play.

Bell's concern was just that it took too long for Nebraska to get going.

"That slow start is still there," he said. "We've got to shake that. I don't think we've played four quarters of football yet. We've got to come out and establish ourselves.

"I don't want to get to where we have to rely on the fourth quarter. One of these games we're going to be in trouble if we wait."

The Cornhuskers have exhibited a kind of gas line freeze since their 23-14, season-opening victory over Texas A&M in the Kickoff Classic. A bone-jarring hit on kick returner Rodney Harris by linebacker LeRoy Etienne at the start of the second half snapped Nebraska out of its lethargy that night.

The Cornhuskers played well from the start in their 63-13 victory over Utah State, but a week later, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., their first-quarter blahs translated into a 28-0 deficit, the ultimate ignominy.

That was "something we hadn't encountered before," Bell said, understating the situation.

Nebraska probably out-played UCLA in the second half, though it's difficult to tell because the Bruins went conservative. But by then, it didn't matter. It was too late.

After a week off to regroup, the Cornhuskers vented their leftover



Tom Osborne's Huskers have had some strangely quiet first-half efforts.

frustrations from the UCLA game on Arizona State. But again, not until they struggled a little early on.

"I don't think we've put a complete game together, offensively and defensively, yet," said Millikan. "We haven't played up to par, and we needed to do that, especially with the Big Eight (season) coming up."

The problem could be that Nebraska hasn't felt challenged, except in the UCLA game, which was so unusual it probably ought to be disregarded in evaluating the Cornhuskers' play during the non-conference season.

Nebraska isn't as bad as its start in that game and UCLA isn't as good. Once in a while something like that happens.

The Texas A&M game is probably a poor indicator of how good the Cornhuskers can be this season, too. Coaches say a team usually improves the most between its first and second games.

A&M got worse, losing to LSU and getting embarrassed by Oklahoma State before finding salvation in the weak Southwest Conference. The Aggies opened with a 50-15 victory over Texas Tech.

The UCLA aberration notwithstanding, Nebraska seems to have gotten better.

Still, "we've got to come out more in the first quarter," Millikan said.

The Cornhuskers led UNLV 20-0 at halftime, "but the offense only scored 13 of those points," he said.

Nebraska's second touchdown came when Mike Croel blocked a punt and Cartier Walker scooped up the ball and ran 34 yards to the end zone.

"The defense played great from beginning to end," said Millikan.

A week earlier against Arizona State, however, it was the defense that needed the first half to get loose.

The bottom line, of course, is that Nebraska came away with a 4-1 record in non-conference play. Results are what matter. And the Cornhuskers have managed to get the job done.

Osborne said early in the week his concern was winning the Big Eight. If Nebraska could do that, in a race

**Ken Clark led
NU with 79
yards and
three TDs.**



that should include not only Oklahoma but also Oklahoma State and Colorado, the "national picture" would take care of itself. If the Cornhuskers can qualify for their first Orange Bowl since the 1983 season, they should be in a position to at least challenge for the mythical national championship.

Oklahoma, which has made four consecutive trips to Miami, appears to be down a little this season.

But Oklahoma State and Colorado, who play each other Saturday in Boulder, both appear to be much stronger.

Osborne tosses Missouri into that group, too. The Tigers almost always give Nebraska a tough go-round. That makes for four rugged conference games, with the other three all on the road, beginning with the opener at Kansas.

The Jayhawks are winless (0-4) and surrounded by controversy under first-year head coach Glen Mason. They don't figure to be much better than UNLV, except that the emotion goes up a notch or two when Big Eight play begins.

Nebraska fans will have the same kind of attitude toward Kansas that they had toward UNLV, according to Bell.

"It'll be the same type of atmosphere," he said.

Saturday in Lawrence, where Nebraska has had its way with Kan-

sas in recent seasons, "we've got to come out and establish ourselves," said Bell. "The Big Eight is going to be tougher. And we've got to get something going."

Millikan was quick to agree.

Even though the Cornhuskers handled UNLV with relative ease, such games can be detrimental, he said. "Other teams see how sluggish we look on film and get their confidence up."

From here on out, all any of Nebraska's opponents need is a break or two and some encouragement, or confidence if you prefer.

Millikan's play against Nevada-Las Vegas was a good example. It didn't matter to him who the opposition was. Millikan was pumped. He was motivated. He wanted to do well for the homefolks.

On an afternoon when some were lethargic, Millikan went full-force.

"I felt good about my blocking. I sprung a couple of guys for touchdowns," he said.

"But the people watching don't pay much attention to that. I wish I could've gotten a touchdown."

Millikan expects Nebraska's early-game problems to be solved now that the conference season is at hand.

"Knowing it's the Big Eight will help," he said. "But that's the way it should be every game."

Why it hasn't, no one knows. ■

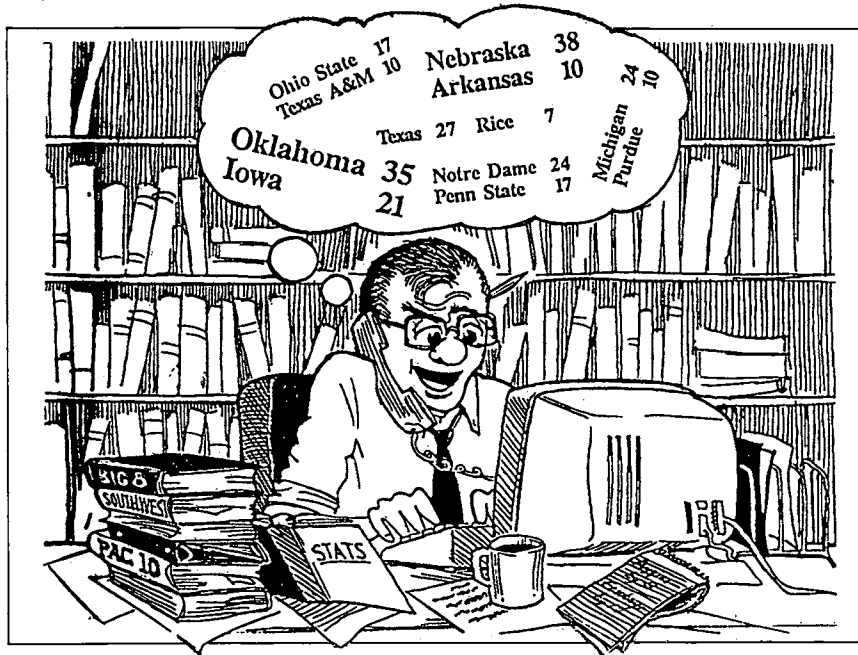
'Hawks Pose No Threat

Rick Thurtle, KDUH-TV, Scottsbluff, Neb.: "Believe it or not, this game is important for the Huskers. Nebraska needs to be able to get their minds ready for Big Eight play. I can't see the Jayhawks causing Nebraska any problems at all. Some people say that playing in Lawrence will help the Jayhawks, but I think that it will hurt them quite a bit. Nebraska will only bring 60 players, which means that Osborne won't be able to substitute as freely as he normally would against a team like Kansas. However, Tom will try to keep the score down as much as possible so I can see Nebraska winning the game, 45-3. If Nebraska learned anything against UCLA, it was how to handle the pass. That's Kansas' strongest offensive threat, so I would say that the Jayhawks are in trouble.

"It seems to me that the fans in western Nebraska are really enjoying Husker football this year. Traffic comes to a stop when the Huskers are playing. We are closer to Denver than we are to Lincoln, but the fans out here would rather follow the Huskers than the AFC champion Broncos. As far as we are concerned in Scottsbluff, the Huskers are it.

"The Kansas game will help prepare the Huskers for their showdown with OSU. I really think that Oklahoma State and Colorado might not be for real. They're good teams, but they still have a little ways to go to catch up to Nebraska and establish themselves as Big Eight powers."

Arne Green, Hutchinson News, Hutchinson, Kan.: "I don't think that this game will be a pretty sight for Kansas fans. What will Kansas be able to do in this game? Show up and that is about it. When you look at Kansas, you see a team that their defense is down and they have to rely on their passing game for any kind of offense. The Jayhawks will have to be able to throw the football against the Huskers because KU is going to be behind very quickly. **Nebraska 45, Kansas 7.**



"Kansas is getting better, but that's still not very good when you look at teams like Oklahoma and Nebraska. It hurts Kansas to have to open Big Eight play against Nebraska simply because they need to get some confidence in themselves. If they played Kansas State or Iowa State the first week of conference play, they might win the game and feel better about themselves when they played OU or Nebraska. KU played well against Baylor before finally losing, and that was a good sign for this young team. The only reason that they lost that game was because they were a young team and were pressured into making some critical errors late in the contest. The Big Eight is more balanced this year with OSU and Colorado looking stronger, but Kansas, K-State, and Iowa State are still on the bottom of the pile. Missouri is the only unknown factor in the Big Eight. KU needs to win some games this year in order to turn this program around."

Chuck Woodling, Lawrence Journal-World, Lawrence, Kan.: "Kansas will simply try to survive this game and that may be a very difficult task.

The Jayhawks are a hurting team and they are not that badly injured. They rank near the bottom of every major defensive category in the Big Eight and the nation. They are small, slow, and inexperienced. The best hope for Kansas to keep this game close would be to allow Coach Osborne to expand the traveling squad and bring some of his younger players to Lawrence for the game. It's a common joke around here that the Husker third-string tailback always has a great game against the Jayhawks. **Dr. Tom can name the score.**

"The best chance that Kansas has in this game is to move the ball using their passing game. (Quarterback) Kelly Donohoe and (wide receiver) Willie Vaughn are a great pair when it comes to the long bomb. They have a good running back in Snell, but he can't carry the running load by himself. KU is a better team than they were last year. They led Baylor late in the game and they were ahead of California (21-14), before Cal scored 38 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to put the contest away. That game was where the Jayhawk defense bent and broke. Auburn murdered

them, but that was a game that they knew they had no chance to win.

"I honestly feel that the Big Eight has no balance at all. Anytime that a team like Kansas is forced to play teams like Nebraska and Oklahoma, it is an automatic win for the Sooners or Huskers. Oklahoma and Nebraska are still on top of the conference, even though it seems like both of them have slipped a little from last year; and Iowa State, KU, and K-State are still on the bottom. Colorado and OSU are getting closer to the top, but they aren't there yet. OSU always seems to find a way to lose to the Huskers when it is a big game. Last year's 35-0 score is a good example. Nebraska may have slipped a little bit, but not enough for any of the Little Six to catch up to them. This game will be a breeze for the Huskers."

Arvin Donley, University Daily Kansan, Lawrence, Kan.: "The outcome of this game really depends on how healthy the Jayhawks are when game time rolls around. That is the key factor to this game. Everybody knows that Nebraska is five times better than Kansas. KU played error-free football against the Baylor Bears to open the season and if they can do that against the Huskers, the game could be closer than people think. Coach Mason has this team's attitude completely different than it was last year. The players gave up on them-

selves last year, but this year is a different story. They are in better condition and they believe that they can be a good football team. The players are having a hard time adjusting to Mason's strict guidelines, but it is helping them. However, that doesn't mean that they are going to beat OU or Nebraska any time soon. **Nebraska will win this game, 45-14**, just to be optimistic. Mistakes can kill Kansas and they might give the Huskers a few fumbles. That would spell big trouble for the Jayhawks.

"Kansas has to concentrate on winning the games against Iowa State and Kansas State. Those are the key games in the Jayhawks' Big Eight schedule. Playing Nebraska and Oklahoma will hurt the Jayhawks, but a win over the Cyclones or Wildcats would be a step in the right direction for them. The Big Eight is becoming a very tough league. OU and the Huskers seem to be a little weaker than they have been in recent years and Oklahoma State and Colorado appear to be climbing the ladder. This could be one of the most interesting conference races in some time, but not if you are a Jayhawk fan."

Steve Alvis, KUON-TV, Lincoln, Neb.: "I'd hate to say that this will be a slaughter of the Jayhawks. I can't even give a score on this game, but I do think **Nebraska will win by plenty**. Nebraska needed to open up the Big

Eight schedule playing a team like the Kansas Jayhawks. After you play a rough non-conference schedule like the Huskers did, you need to get your mind back on the conference race.

"You have to think that the Big Eight is more balanced this year than it has been in recent years just because of the play outside of the conference. Colorado beating Iowa in Iowa City was a big game. Texas A&M came to Stillwater and Oklahoma State beat them by 37 points. At the same time, the California schools (USC and UCLA) were knocking off the Big Reds. This game won't be a factor in the league race, but the next week when OSU comes to Lincoln could be a huge game. But, the Huskers must take each game one at a time and not look ahead to the big showdowns. The game in Lawrence will mark the beginning of a very big conference race."

Stuart Swenson, KSTF-TV, Scottsbluff, Neb.: "This game will be just like all of the other Kansas-Nebraska games in recent memory. **Nebraska will win this game by 35 points**. Kansas is improved over last year. But, they are not ready to compete with the Oklahomas and Nebraskas of the league. Nebraska has been a little up-and-down this year. When they lost to UCLA, a lot of people wrote them off, but they still have a good chance at the national championship. ■



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Kansas Jayhawks

First-year coach Glen Mason must endure a rather shocking introduction to Big Eight football when his struggling Jayhawks begin conference play against Nebraska. KU has already endured its share of shocks.

The Jays were plastered consecutively by Baylor, Auburn and California before taking a breather against New Mexico State, and it's clear KU is going to have trouble moving the ball. Halfback Arnold Snell is the only rushing threat from Lawrence, but he's struggled so far, averaging barely 50 yards per game on the ground and right at 4 yards per carry. And Snell is about all; KU is netting barely 100 yards a game rushing.

Quarterback Kelly Donohoe, however, is the key to KU's offensive success. He's hitting just under 50 percent of his passes, good for almost 200 yards per game.

Donohoe has a fine trio of receivers from which to pick. Split end Quintin Smith and flanker Willie Vaughn are outstanding. Vaughn is a senior

who has made big plays for the past three seasons, and he's at it again in '88. Vaughn is third on KU's career pass receiving charts and should easily become the all-time school leader by season's end. Tight end John Baker is a possession receiver but not a long-ball threat.

With Donohoe in the game, KU could well make it interesting, but if he's injured, the Jayhawks are woefully inexperienced behind him at quarterback because Lance Flachsbarth (recruited as a star QB) is now a star linebacker.

In the line, center Chip Budde (6-2, 255, so.) is considered an up-and-comer, but he's also considered small, and the entire KU offensive line averages just 255 pounds per man.

On defense, KU has several stars but not much depth. Flachsbarth is developing into a big-time player, and inside linebacker Curtis Moore is already at that level. Moore was named the Big Eight's Defensive

Newcomer of the Year as a freshman last season.

However, KU is *very* young and will probably have eight sophomores or freshmen in the starting lineup on defense against the Huskers. All told, the Jayhawks have just six seniors among their 22 starters.

That inexperience showed against California as KU held a 21-21 tie at halftime before falling 52-21.

Strengths: KU's passing game could cause problems if the pass protection holds up. Vaughn is a serious long-ball threat; he went 89 yards for a TD against California.

Weaknesses: Defense against the run. It will take a maniacal effort to stop NU's power game.

Key Matchups: Watch Nebraska's fullbacks. If the KU line pinches into stop the power game, NU could spring some long ones outside.

Statistically Speaking: Kansas surrendered 309 yards rushing and 371 passing to Auburn in its second game. ■

The Report Card

NU	POS.	KU
A	QB	B-
B+	RB	C+
A-	OL	C+
B+	E	B
B	DL	C
A	LB	B-
B+	DB	C+
B+	K	C

Nebraska vs. Kansas

When: 1:30 p.m. (Central), Saturday, Oct. 8.

Where: Memorial Stadium, Lawrence, Kan.

Media Coverage: Husker Football Network.

Jayhawk Facts: Coach — Glen Mason (Ohio State, 1972) has a 0-4 record in his first year at KU, and he is 12-14 overall. School Colors — Crimson and Blue. Nickname — Jayhawks. Enrollment — 28,720. Conference — Big Eight. Basic Offense — Multiple. Basic Defense — 5-2.

The Series: Nebraska leads, 70-21-3, having won the last 19 meetings. KU's last victory in this series, the third-oldest in NCAA Division I-A, was 1968 when the Jayhawks earned a 23-13 verdict.

The current NU winning streak is the longest in this series. In last year's game, backup quarterback Clete Blakeman came off the bench for the second year in a row to lead a Husker rout (70-0 in 1986, and 54-2 in '87). Blakeman hit 10-12 passes for 100 yards while replacing injured Steve Taylor. The Black Shirts have held KU without a touchdown the last three games. The only Jayhawk scores have come on two field goals and a safety. During the 1980s, Nebraska has won by an average score of 53-5, and the Big Red has tallied over 30 points each game for the past 12 years. Tom Osborne's record against KU is 15-0.

COACH'S EVALUATION

Tom Osborne

Give Credit To the Rebs

"UNLV played hard. They played well. They didn't come in and give up at all.

"I thought our defense played reasonably well. They didn't give up a lot of big plays and kept UNLV out of the end zone. We did let 'em get some first downs and move the ball. So maybe that's some improvement. I'm trying to look hard to find some improvement.

"I didn't think offensively we played very well. Frankly, they played pretty aggressively on defense. I think they're probably an improving team.

"We took good care of the ball, offensively, fortunately. If we'd have gone out there and laid it around five or six times, we might've had a hard time winning because football is still an emotional game and you still have to be mentally ready to play.

"No matter how much we talked to them this week, apparently the general environment sank in more than we said. What we were telling them was, you come to play hard, you've got to be ready to play, you've got to practice well. And they did practice fairly well. I just didn't feel like maybe we had the intensity, the concentration, we were looking for. I think UNLV had some players who really came to play.

"There were a few things in our blocking schemes we had to change, offensively. We were surprised by how they lined up. We were just a little taken aback, not so much confused, but the way they played on one side of the line of scrimmage — toward the eagle end side — we just had to make some adjustments. Once we did that, we began to break some pretty good plays.

"We had so many penalties. We had a lot of 5-yard penalties, and two or three 10- or 15-yard penalties, that made it really hard to score and move the ball consistently.

"I just felt like we were missing some blocks early. Some of the options we had executed pretty well and then we didn't block the support correctly, missed some blocks, made

some mental errors, went to sleep on some things.

"Bob Sledge played some (at tackle), even though we did not plan to originally. The trainers thought we ought to try him a series or two, and things just weren't going very well, so we did play him a little more than we planned. I don't think he reinjured his

shoulder and that was good.

"John Nelson played a fair amount (at guard). Sledge didn't practice until Thursday, and Nelson missed most of the week, too. And then we had some different people in the offensive line most of the time. I think that did lead to some disorganization.

"The kicking game was reasonable. I'd say it might have been fairly even.

"We played well enough to win, but we appeared to be a little flat."■

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19 Morgan Gregory	6-0	185	jr.
	22 Nate Turner	6-1	220	fr.
LT	62 Bob Sledge	6-2	270	sr.
	78 Tom Punt	6-8	270	so.
LG	65 Andy Keeler	6-3	265	sr.
	53 Mark Antonietti	6-2	265	sr.
C	68 Jake Young	6-5	260	jr.
	59 Jeff Anderson	6-4	270	jr.
RG	76 John Nelson	6-1	260	jr.
	69 Bill Bobbora	6-3	260	jr.
RT	70 Doug Glaser	6-7	295	jr.
	77 Terry Eyman	6-6	265	so.
TE	43 Todd Millikan	6-3	245	sr.
	85 Monte Kratzstein	6-4	225	jr.
QB	9 Steve Taylor	6-0	205	sr.
	14 Gerry Gdowski	6-1	195	jr.
FB	34 Tyreese Knox	5-10	215	sr.
	29 Bryan Carpenter	5-10	200	jr.
IB	32 Ken Clark	5-9	200	jr.
	20 Terry Rodgers	5-7	170	so.
WB	33 Dana Brinson	5-9	170	sr.
	21 Richard Bell	6-0	195	jr.
PK	16 Chris Drennan	5-9	180	jr.
	44 Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	so.

DEFENSE

OLB	89 Broderick Thomas	6-3	235	sr.
	93 Jon Marco	6-1	220	sr.
LT	84 Willie Griffin	6-3	275	sr.
	56 Joe Sims	6-4	265	so.
MG	96 Lawrence Pete	6-1	270	sr.
	74 Mike Murray	5-10	240	jr.
RT	95 Paul Brungardt	6-7	255	so.
	91 Kent Wells	6-5	285	jr.
OLB	42 Jeff Mills	6-3	220	jr.
	88 Mike Croel	6-3	215	so.
SLB	55 Randall Jobman	6-3	230	jr.
	47 LeRoy Etienne	6-1	230	jr.
WLB	40 Pat Tyrance	6-2	230	so.
	49 Chris Caliendo	6-3	240	jr.
LCB	8 Lorenzo Hicks	6-0	195	sr.
	28 John Custard	5-9	165	sr.
RCB	10 Charles Fryar	5-10	175	sr.
	5 Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	so.
SS	17 Reggie Cooper	6-3	200	so.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
S	4 Tim Jackson	6-0	190	sr.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
P	46 John Kroeker	5-11	175	sr.
	48 Scott Beckler	6-0	185	so.

JAYHAWK 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

WR	2 Quintin Smith	5-11	180	jr.
	81 Rob Licursi	6-0	195	fr.
LT	77 Chris Perez	6-5	270	fr.
	53 Marino Vidoli	6-2	245	fr.
LG	56 Russ Bowen	6-3	245	fr.
	65 Scott Imwalle	6-2	245	fr.
OC	51 Chip Budde	6-2	255	so.
	59 Dave Grattan	6-2	250	sr.
RG	59 Dave Grattan	6-2	250	sr.
	53 Smith Holland	6-3	250	fr.
RT	76 Bill Hundelt	6-6	255	jr.
	77 Chris Perez	6-5	270	fr.
TE	86 John Baker	6-3	235	jr.
	84 Dan Newbrough	6-1	228	jr.
QB	5 Kelly Donohoe	6-0	180	jr.
	15 Tim Hill	5-7	155	fr.
FB	34 Roger Robben	6-0	215	fr.
	4 Maurice Hooks	5-11	195	so.
TB	22 Arnold Snell	6-1	205	sr.
	26 Maurice Douglas	5-10	175	fr.
WR	1 Willie Vaughn	6-0	190	sr.
	85 Kerry Drayton	6-0	170	fr.
PK	93 Brad Fleeman	5-11	170	so.
	97 B.J. Lohsen	6-3	215	jr.

DEFENSE

SOL	17 Lance Flachsbarth	6-5	235	fr.
	98 Drew Main	6-2	225	jr.
ST	62 Dave Walton	6-7	240	so.
	73 Scott McCabe	6-2	245	fr.
MG	69 Mark Konz	6-3	260	jr.
	66 John Fritch	6-3	255	fr.
RT	82 David Gordon	6-3	245	so.
	94 Phil Hopper	6-4	220	fr.
ROL	90 Paul Friday	6-3	190	fr.
	89 Jason Tyrer	6-1	210	fr.
RIL	99 Tony Barker	6-3	235	so.
	45 Mongo Allen	6-0	230	fr.
SIL	19 Curtis Moore	6-1	225	so.
	44 Paul Zaffaroni	6-1	220	fr.
CC	80 Rodney Harris	5-9	190	sr.
	6 Jim New	6-0	188	fr.
WC	7 Peda Samuel	5-6	160	sr.
	12 Troy Gregory	5-9	170	sr.
WS	10 Doug Terry	5-11	165	fr.
	9 Rob Newson	6-0	185	sr.
SS	23 Jason Priest	6-0	180	fr.
	14 Deral Boykin	5-10	180	fr.
P	97 B.J. Lohsen	6-3	215	jr.
	47 John Brehm	6-0	192	sr.

Nebraska outside linebacker Broderick Thomas was seen at the Gateway Mall in Lincoln, searching for a tuxedo.

"I didn't find what I was after, but my uncle (Mike Singletary of the Chicago Bears) said he could hook me up with something."

The black tie and tails, and maybe a top hat, could come in handy in December when the Lombardi Award and Butkus Award for defensive players are announced.

Thomas is still engaging in press conferences, but he remains subdued. "I'll let my playing do my talking this year," he said.

Former Nebraska quarterback Dave Humm, the Cornhuskers' all-time leading passer, was in Lincoln for the Nevada-Las Vegas game. Humm is now in real estate, as is another former NU quarterback, Vince Ferragamo. Humm, a native of Las Vegas, still lives in Nevada and said he thinks about Nebraska often.

NU offensive line coach Milt Tenopir was married to Terry Aksamit the Friday night before the Nebraska-Arizona State game. The Cornhuskers presented him with a wedding present of 441 yards of rushing, including three backs gaining more than 100 yards for the first time ever since records were started for rushing in 1946.

Inside linebacker LeRoy Etienne was suspended from the team for a week, including the UNLV game, for disciplinary problems. "He's got a few things to straighten out," Tom Osborne said. "We have academic restrictions about class attendance and he's been short on that." The word is 10 missed classes lead to a game suspension.

Tyrese Knox apparently has found a happy home at fullback. Two years ago, the California back tried fullback, but things didn't work out because he wasn't happy leaving the I-back spot. Now, he's worked his way into the starting lineup. "I think it's a couple of things," Osborne said. "Right now, it's the difference between being No. 3 at I-back or No. 1 at fullback."

Osborne said he is still pleased with fullback Bryan Carpenter, but



Broderick Thomas

that he likes the power of Knox's 215 pounds as opposed to Carpenter's 200. "There are times when Bryan can hit a guy as hard as he can and not knock him down. But we're still very happy with Bryan because he gives our wishbone sets a lot of potential."

Backup offensive guard John Roschal returned to the team after being suspended for the Arizona State game for personal reasons.

Quarterbacks Gerry Gdowski, the former Nebraska Prep Athlete of the Year, and Mickey Joseph, the Offensive Player of the Year from Louisiana, will alternate through the end of the season as the No. 2 quarterbacks behind Steve Taylor.

Joseph was the first backup against Arizona State and he ran for a touchdown. Gdowski has rushed seven times for 41 yards this season. "Neither one played against UCLA and Gerry was the first one in against Utah State. Then, Mickey went in first against Arizona State. Gerry will go against UNLV and Mickey first against

Kansas," Osborne said. Gdowski knows the offense better and Joseph has a stronger throwing arm, Osborne said.

Taylor is getting rave reviews from all around the country, but nobody is more excited about his play than Osborne.

"When you've got that mobility at quarterback, from a defensive standpoint, we're way more frightening if he can run and throw than if he is just a great thrower," Osborne said. "That's nothing against Troy Aikman (UCLA) or Dan Ford (Arizona State). They're great players. But if you put Steve Taylor out there and you're going to try and have just one guy make a difference, and he's on, he can do as much damage as any one player in the country."

Former Cornhuskers Chris Spachman and Brad Tyrer attended the NU-ASU game. Spachman, on injured reserve with the Phoenix Cardinals, is still on crutches after tearing his Achilles tendon, but is expected to be able to begin workouts in a month. He may return to the Cardinals before the end of the season.

The Nebraska redshirts edged the NU freshman team 24-22 in the annual "Toilet Bowl." The redshirts, who comprise Nebraska's scout teams, counted on a 35-yard field goal by Todd Bennett, a walkon from Norfolk, to win the game on the final play.

Inside linebacker Randall Jobman, preparing for his first start with the Cornhuskers, said he had dreamed about the chance all his life. Jobman, a junior from Lisco, Neb., has overcome a severe injury to even make the team, much less earn a starting spot. He had his thumb ripped from his hand when he was practicing for a rodeo the summer before his freshman year. He sat out the semester and was a defensive end in 1985 on the freshman team. He switched to linebacker two years ago and is starting in place of Etienne.

The new joke around the conference after Nebraska's loss to UCLA and Oklahoma's loss to USC is: "The Big Eight is just one of those basketball conferences; what do you expect?" ■

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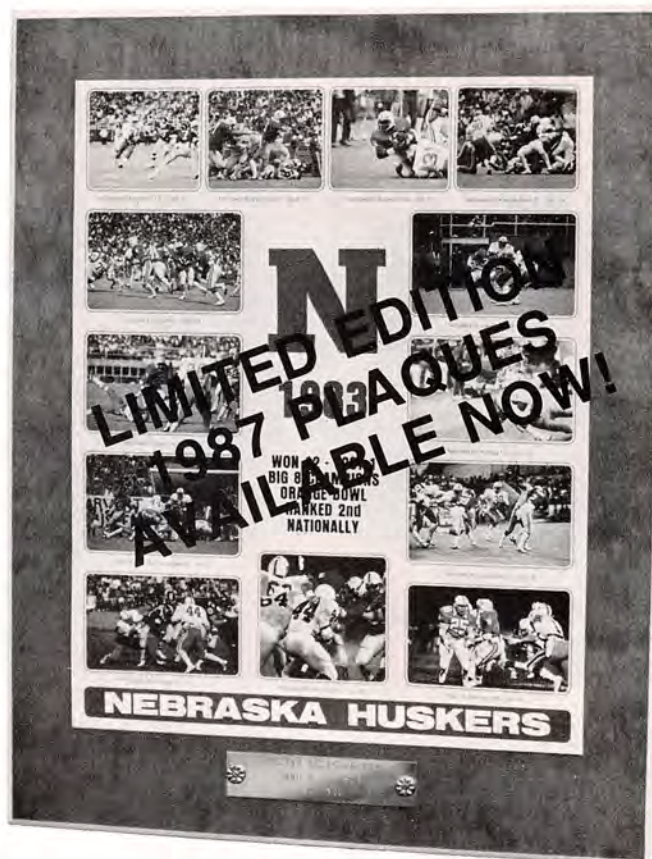
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Freshman Firing Line

NEBRASKA'S JV TEAM IS OFF TO A RECORD-SETTING START, THANKS IN PART TO A FINE OFFENSIVE LINE.



Line coach Milt Tenopir has been pleased with the JV offensive line so far.

You might want to make note of these names because you might not be hearing them again for two or three years.

Jason Daniel, Chris Ybarra, Terris Chorney, Scott Peterson and Mike Johnston.

Those Nebraska freshmen comprised the starting interior offensive line when the Cornhusker junior varsity defeated the Bethany College jayvees 68-0.

Daniel and Johnston were the tackles, Ybarra and Peterson the guards, and Chorney the center.

And one of these days, some of them will, no doubt, be starting for Nebraska's varsity. One of these days, they will. But not right away, and probably not even next season.

That group, as well as several other freshmen, includes "some kids who have a chance to be pretty good football players," says Milt Tenopir, a Cornhusker offensive line coach.

"But all of them appear to be a ways away because of size and strength."

Tenopir hasn't seen any of this year's freshmen with the maturity of center Jake Young or tackle Doug Glaser, both of whom are starting for the varsity without benefit of a redshirt season. But then, Young and Glaser are special. Few develop as quickly as they have.

Young and Glaser have gotten stronger since they were freshmen. Strength wasn't what enabled them to step in.

"Those two kids are kind of exceptional in that they picked up the mental game pretty well. They weren't really strong, physical kids, but their effort was so outstanding, even as freshmen," Tenopir says.

"Jake and Doug have always been 100-miles-an-hour practice players. You'd like to have three or four of those a year. I'm not saying a couple of these kids won't be like that. But right now, they've got a little work to do."

Tenopir, of course, doesn't work with the freshman offensive linemen. Barney Cotton, a former Cornhusker lineman, does. Tenopir regularly discusses them with Cotton, however, and he watches videotape of their games. He's been impressed with what he's seen.

The freshman linemen have played a significant role in an offense that is on pace to break most of the freshman records established by the 1980 team, which included Turner Gill at quarterback, Irving Fryar at wing-back, and an offensive line built around scholarship recruits Mark Traynowicz, Harry Grimmering and Mark Behning.

This year's freshman-junior varsity team has averaged more than 9 yards per play in 86-3 and 68-0 victories against over-matched opponents.

What figures to be the toughest test comes against the Air Force Academy jayvees Oct. 7 at Memorial Stadium. Still, "those kids have blocked pretty well," says Tenopir. "They haven't just whiffed everybody. They've done some impressive things."

Tenopir is most impressed by freshman linemen who are aggressive.

"You've got to understand they're going to make some mistakes. If they're making mistakes (going) as fast as they can, that's one thing. But if they're loafing or not giving a good effort, that's something else."

Mistakes can be corrected. "Every one of them is going to get worse before he gets better as far as the mental aspect is concerned," Tenopir says.

On the other hand, "aggressiveness is hard to instill in a kid."

Most offensive linemen spend at least two years, and often three, in the program before being in a position to contribute at Nebraska. They're told if they play two seasons, as a starter or backup, they've made a significant contribution to the team.

As talented as they are, the JV linemen still need some work to reach the Jake Young level.



"It'd be unrealistic for us to tell a kid he's going to come in and play with the varsity as a freshman," Tenopir says. "Most of those kids have that understanding when they come here."

"If they have that attitude and perseverance, they'll play."

Redshirt offensive linemen Brian Boerboom and Erik Wiegert, highly regarded scholarship freshmen a year ago, learned that, Tenopir says.

Boerboom and Wiegert, who figure to play important roles in the offensive line next season, "weren't real strong as freshmen," says Tenopir. "They've gone through a spring now, and they realize how much they have to work to get where they need to be to play."

"They're going to be outstanding players for us when the time comes."

Of the starters against the Bethany College jayvees, Daniel, Ybarra, and

Peterson are scholarship recruits.

Daniel is from Midland, Tex., and played for the same high school (Lee) from which Nebraska got Young.

Ybarra is from Fontana, Calif., and Peterson is from Peoria, Ariz.

Chorney, who's from Ituna, Saskatchewan, Canada, and Johnston, from Bellevue, Neb., are walkons.

Johnston played at Omaha Gross High School, which has produced several Cornhusker linemen, among them Bob Sledge, John McCormick and Dan Hurley. Johnston "is in the same mold as the rest of the Gross kids," Tenopir says. "Mike's a squatty type of a guy with good football intelligence."

"He's going to be a good player."

Several other freshman walkons have shown promise in the offensive line, according to Tenopir; among them Jason Becker from Jefferson City, Mo.; Doug Waddell from

Columbia, S.C.; Tate Adams and Jeff Colwell, high school teammates from Alliance, Neb.; and Chris Zyzda from Sioux City, Iowa.

Becker and Waddell are the heaviest of the group, each being listed at 270 pounds or more. They're both working to trim down while increasing strength.

Dan Lohmeier, a redshirted freshman from Omaha Creighton Prep., came to Nebraska on scholarship as a tight end but has moved into the offensive line after recovering from knee surgery.

"I don't know a lot about Dan. He was just with us (the varsity) for a little while. But he's a good kid; he has athletic ability; and a year or so from now, he should be able to help us in the line," Tenopir says.

Any of the freshmen could eventually make significant contributions to Nebraska's offensive line.

"It depends on how determined

they are," says Tenopir. "So many times, kids get discouraged and don't want to sacrifice the time they need to get where they want to get. But we really haven't had a history of that in the offensive linemen here.

"Most of the kids have stuck around until they're strong enough and have the mental game, the intelligence, down to make quick decisions, until they're ready to play, in other words. Usually, they aren't going to haul off and leave if they really want to play here."

Based on what Tenopir's seen so far, that won't be next season.

"Most of these kids are two years away, to be realistic, unless they really show miraculous physical development," he says.

But that's all right.

With Young and Glaser returning as starters, with the additional maturity and continued development of players like Tom Punt, Bill Bobbora

and Jim Wanek, and the addition of Boerboom and Wiegert, Nebraska will have a solid nucleus for an offensive line.

This year's freshman linemen are "a typical crew, I think," says Tenopir. "You don't have the big, tall kids in there, like we had with Boerboom and Punt, but they're certainly kids who can play for us down the line."

Cotton seems to be pleased with his charges so far because "Barney hasn't asked us for varsity offensive linemen to help him out," says Tenopir.

"Over the years, we've probably had to send a kid or two to help them (the junior varsity) out. So I assume Barney's got confidence in them."

Remember those names: Daniel, Ybarra, Chorney, Peterson, Johnston, Lohmeier, Becker, Waddell, Zyzda, Adams and Colwell.

You'll be hearing at least some of them again... in time. ■

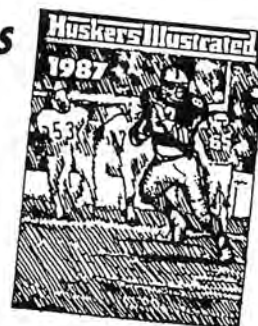
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Encore Performance

How does a team improve after opening its season with an 86-3 victory?

Well, Shane Thorell, the Nebraska freshman football coach, thought his young Cornhuskers had after watching them defeat the Bethany (Kan.) College jayvees 68-0 at Memorial Stadium.

It was difficult to tell much, of course, what with a 47-0 halftime lead and 665 yards of total offense against an obviously undermatched opponent.

"I think it was a good day for us in preparation for upcoming games," Thorell said afterward.

Specifically, he meant a showdown with the Air Force Academy junior varsity Oct. 7 at Memorial Stadium.

Nebraska's freshman-dominated junior varsity has lost to Air Force each of the last two seasons, 24-18 in Lincoln and 21-19 in Colorado Springs.

Thorell will know a lot more about his second Cornhusker team after it plays the Air Force, but he was pleased with its effort against Bethany College.

"We worked on a lot of things we didn't get to the first game. We threw more passes and ran out of a lot more different formations," he says.

Actually, the Nebraska freshmen attempted only two more passes (11) and completed the same number, six. But it probably seemed like they threw more because of 207 passing yards.

Quarterback Mike Grant, who played the entire first half, accounted for 137 of those yards, on 3-of-6 completions.

Two of Grant's completions went for touchdowns, 56 yards to Jon Bostick and 24 yards to Doug Langemeier.

Bostick caught another pass from Grant for 56 yards to finish with a team-leading 113 receiving yards.

By the time Bostick and Grant teamed up for the touchdown, though — with 2:08 left in the first quarter — the game was already out of hand, primarily because of Scott Baldwin, a scholarship I-back from Roselle, N.J.

Baldwin had scored two touchdowns by then; the first on a 1-yard run that capped a 10-play, 54-yard drive on Nebraska's initial possession, the second on a 59-yard run with a Grant pitch midway through the first quarter.

Baldwin finished with 114 yards on 11 carries, an average of more than 10 yards each time he got the ball.

Even so, "I don't think I've proved myself as a good player yet," Baldwin said afterward. "People haven't really seen Scott Baldwin, not even today.

"I'm just waiting for one of those games when the coaches run the I-back a lot and I get the ball 20 times."

Paul Van Housen, a walkon from Polk, Neb., also scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and rushed for over 100 yards, gaining 113 on 17 carries.

The remaining touchdowns, all on runs, were scored by Grant (35 yards), Jerry Kleidosty (8), Andre McDuffy (26), and Bart James (1). Kleidosty and McDuffy are fullbacks. James is a quarterback.

The defense was as overwhelming as the offense, limiting the Bethany College jayvees to 99 total yards.

The Cornhuskers had 10 tackles for losses of 57 yards.

Darin Duin, a scholarship defensive back from Fargo, N.D., had two of those tackles for losses (16 yards) and was credited with a team-high six tackles, five of them unassisted.

Wes Hitchcock, a walkon middle guard from Central City, Neb., also made five unassisted

tackles and six total.

Five defenders were credited with five tackles: Paul Wightman, Jamie Liewer, Tyler Zahn, Matt Rohrer and Mike Petko.

Steve Carmer had an interception, which he returned 54 yards.

"What can you get out of a game like this? That's a tough question," said Petko, a scholarship linebacker from Anaheim, Calif. "In a game like this what we can do is work on technique."

Such games also are better than blocking and tackling teammates in practice, according to Petko.

"We were able to work on a few things defensively that we'll need to do well against Air Force," Thorell said.

"We ran a few more slants, a few more defenses than in the first game."

The Cornhuskers' scoring drive to open the game pleased Thorell. "We were going against the wind, and we ran the ball all the way down the field," he said. "It was a nice, sustained drive." Baldwin carried seven times during the series for 21 yards.

"You need to see how your team does on third-and-2, third-and-3," said Thorell, who never got that opportunity in the 86-3 opening-game victory.

Not everything pleased Thorell, however. There were concerns.

"The thing I was disappointed about was, mentally we did some stupid things," he said. "We had two personal fouls and we got a penalty for spiking an interception. In a close game, those things will beat you."

Thorell attributed such things to "exuberance and lack of maturity."

He doesn't want to eliminate the exuberance. "An aggressive defense is going to get a personal foul now and then," said Thorell. "We just have to work on being more disciplined." ■

A Dream Come True

JEFF MILLS HAS MATURED INTO ONE OF THE
BLACK SHIRTS' TOP YOUNG PLAYERS.



To assistant coach Tony Samuel he has developed into a dream to coach and watch as he evolves into a mature young man.

To opposing players, he's a nightmare, especially when he matches a running back stride-for-stride toward the sideline before thumping him painfully to the turf.

And, to himself, Jeffrey Jonathon Mills . . . still a blossoming teenager . . . feels he's attached himself to the work ethics and motivations for an extended career of success, in whatever he chooses to do.

When one talks with Mills or Samuel, under totally separate conditions, you get the feeling they've lent considerable thought to the spectrum of the student-athlete or they have an eerie sense of telepathy.

"Jeff's a very good athlete," Samuel claims. "We're talking about a 6-foot-4, 230-pound kid who can run, change direction and is strong. His 40-yard-dash time is 4.7, electronic, and that's usually 4.6-plus, hand-held.

"He was a little impatient at first and he went through the usual procedure of homesickness, a strong desire to play immediately and all that stuff that goes with being away from home for the first time."

Mills harmonizes by saying, "College and football is a learning process. Everything is not what you want it to be and sometimes you must sit back and wait your turn. That doesn't mean you sit back and relax. You still have to go for it with all of your heart and soul, but there are a lot of things you think you know but really don't and won't until experience teaches you."

Both Samuel and Mills admit that Jeff's initial semester was taxing but the remedy has long since been

found. According to Samuel, "He had one tough semester, his first one, but ever since he has learned to put in the hours necessary to do his classwork. When he injured a shoulder, he worked the rehab hours right around his studies and practice.

"Jeff's a bright kid and it's always an added pleasure to watch a young man grow up."

Mills takes pride in the fact that he has absorbed the initial academic slump and pushed his grade average to 2.5, which is B-minus. But, an initial motivating force... his mother, Cynthia... would expect no less from her son.

"Oh yes, my mother stressed academics first and would listen to no extracurricular excuses of why my grades weren't good," Mills says. "I've got a brother majoring in aeronautical engineering, who has about a 3.8 grade average. So, I'd better hold up my part academically, for sure."

Mills is majoring in business with a special interest toward trading in foreign currencies. He says, "I got interested in this from a friend who is already successfully involved in this field. I don't want to make this interview boring by getting into the technical end of this."

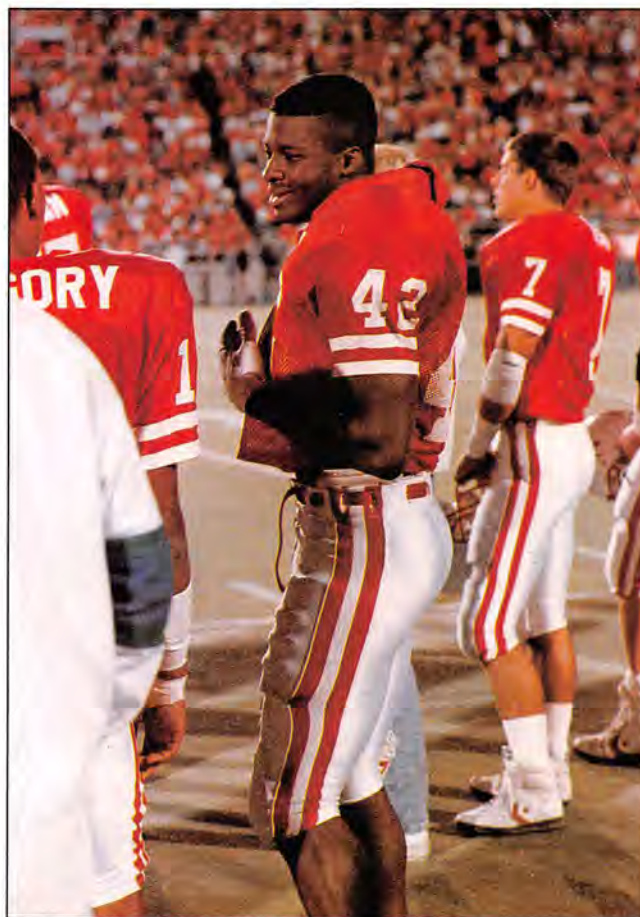
Mills, who is a junior without the benefit of a redshirt season, claims, "I'm on course to graduate a year from spring and that's without a redshirt year. I came to Nebraska when I was 17 years old and I'm just 19 now.

"I won't be 20 until the day we play at Kansas (October 8)."

For a young man who was "all-everything" in high school in three sports... football, basketball and the high hurdles in track... the frustration of infrequent competition added to his early academic woes. He offers a sincere admiration for his role model hero, All-American Broderick Thomas, who he describes in affectionate terms.

"You know, to opposing players and teams Broderick is supposed to be a bad guy but to me, he's one of the kindest people I've ever met. During the bad times I experienced, he has been there to talk to and comfort me and assure me I'll get through these

After making some freshman adjustments, Mills has become a happy Husker.



things.

"Someone taking the time to help you when you are in need, well, not many people have done that for me.

"I hope I'll always be his friend because he's just a wonderful person."

Samuel tosses in, "Jeff played some as a sophomore but the turning point came in last year's Fiesta Bowl when Broderick got hurt and then Jon (Marco) went down. Jeff went in and played the major portion of the game and played well. I think this situation developed some new concepts for him."

The straight-forward talking Mills admits, "I had no idea I was going to play in the Fiesta Bowl and when the injuries came, there I was. It was a shock to me. I was nervous, I was scared but, it was strange — after a while I relaxed because I knew in my heart I should be out here."

The real turn came in last spring's practice where Samuel claimed, "Jeff worked his butt off during the off-

season and spring practice. He went into the preseason No. 2 behind Marco. There were several preseason scrimmages, one in particular, where he outplayed every outside linebacker on the squad.

"It paid off and he began to realize the benefit of hard work."

Mills adds to this description somewhat, saying, "Oh yeah, I worked hard. Then, all of a sudden things just fell into place. But nothing is engraved in stone, no position is totally secure.

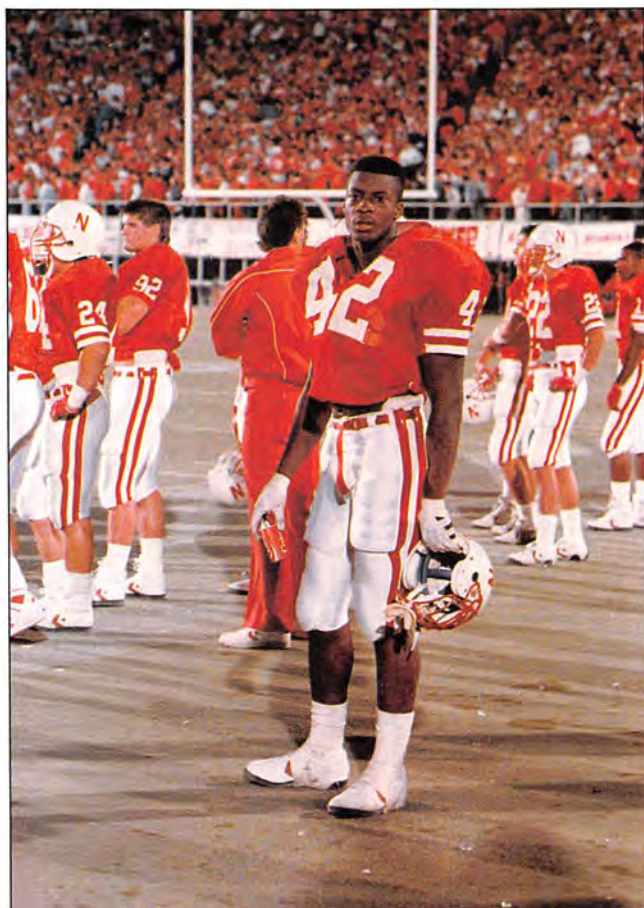
"You've got to go out there and do your best each and every week because the coaches are going to put the right people in there to do the right job."

At the moment the Cornhusker depth chart shows three seniors at the right outside linebacker spot and three underclassmen on the other side. This doesn't bother Samuel a bit, and he snaps a quick and reasonable reply.

"My guys play both sides," Samuel



Mills (top, 42) is one of NU's new-breed players who has blossomed without redshirting. With several young players like Mills (bottom), Nebraska could continue to get even better.



explains. "You've seen Jeff play both sides this season and so does Marco. Broderick more or less stays on one side but (Mike) Croel swings at both sides, too. Croel is another player you're going to be writing about in the future, too.

"You've got to make sure the kids who play both sides are comfortable at both positions. We only travel five, maybe six, outside linebackers and you want to make sure three, preferably four, have practiced, scrimmaged and played in games at both positions. During a game you never want to throw a kid into play who hasn't at least scrimmaged at that position.

"If you want to look to the future, it appears Mills and Croel will be our starters next year."

Mills is a bit more succinct. He says, "As long as I'm playing, I feel comfortable. Nothing beats the feeling of being out there, especially at Nebraska."

The strapping young junior, who says his weight is a well-conditioned 235 pounds, is philosophical about a professional future in football, saying, "If God is willing and things are right, anything can happen. I feel I have the talents and abilities but everything must fall into place."

As for weight lifting, he chips in, "I lift to protect myself. It's a focal point of football and you must keep your strength up."

His teammates call him Jeff or "J," but Mills shyly admits his mother insists on calling him Jeffrey because, "She says my name is Jeffrey. . . Jeffrey Jonathon when she's serious. . . not Jeff."

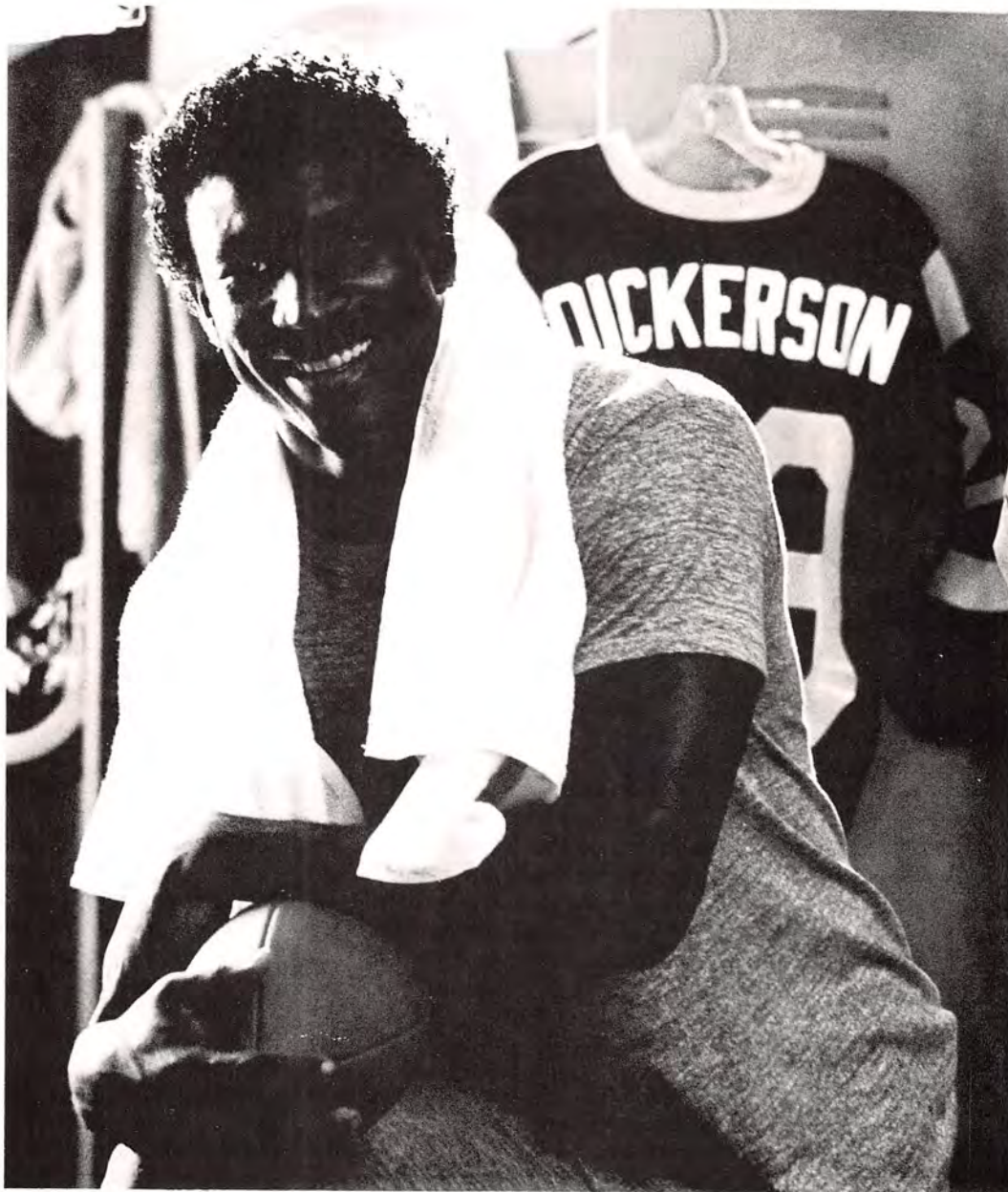
With an open date following the loss at UCLA, Mills carefully remarked, "I don't believe one loss can dictate the season. It depends on the individuals who are playing on the team. If they have heart, soul and dedication to continue on with the ideals they set in the preseason, one loss won't divert that."

But, it's a cinch Mills will divert a lot of hopeful thoughts from opposing offenses who are trying to run away from the often heralded Thomas on the left side. ■

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—Eric Dickerson

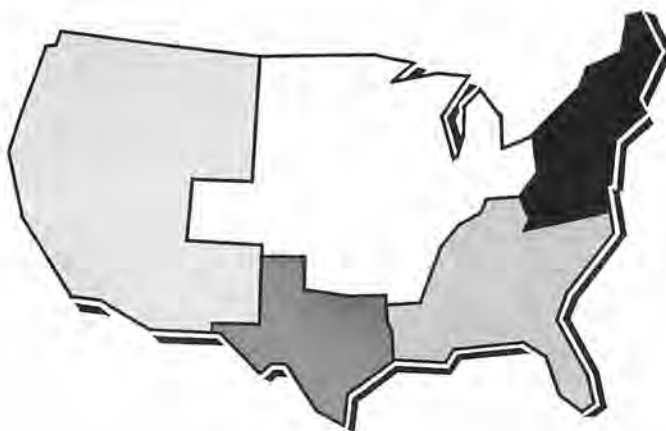


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RECRUITING BY REGIONS



Don't be mistaken. Recruiting is in full swing. It's always in full swing for the elite of college football. What isn't in full swing is the part of recruiting that makes it a contact sport; schools can't make face-to-face contact until November. Still, high school football is well under way in all 50 states, and Nebraska takes some of those states more seriously than others. High school football in California, Arizona, Louisiana, New Jersey and Nebraska is of great interest to Cornhusker coaches.

However, there is one state that is of great interest to Nebraska and just about every other college in America. We are, of course, talking about Texas. Because of its wealth of prep talent, the Lone Star State is watched closely by recruiting enthusiasts to see who their favorite team gets and who their worst enemy gets. A national championship team could probably be assembled within a few years if a college simply signed the Top 25 players from Texas each year.

So, this week we'll focus on a single region of the country: the Lone Star State.

It's the year of the quarterback in Texas, and the head of the class might be Denison's Reggie Perry (6-2, 190) who is good enough to interest any program, no matter what their offensive philosophy.

Another fascinating quarterback

prospect comes out of Houston's Langham Creek High School in Bert Emanuel (6-1, 175), who reportedly runs a 4.35 in the 40-yard-dash. With that kind of speed, you would automatically think that Emanuel should be in somebody's option game, but he says he doesn't like to run and that he considers himself a passing quarterback. Emanuel backed up that point by throwing for 977 yards and 19 touchdowns with only seven interceptions last year while also running for 586 yards.

The most highly touted pure passer in Texas is Lance Landry (6-1, 180, 4.6) of Port Arthur Jefferson. Landry threw for over 2,200 yards and 18 TDs for a team that got off to an 0-6 start. Landry says the only thing he knows about college right now is that he will definitely go to a school that throws the ball. Jefferson also has other Top 50 Texans in wide receiver Ed Henderson (5-11, 175, 4.5) and linebacker Derrick Johnson (6-2, 215, 4.6).

Another outstanding QB prospect who has option schools drooling is Donald Douglas (6-2, 180, 4.6) of Liberty. Some will recruit Douglas as an athlete, but he insists that he will only play quarterback and maybe some basketball. Douglas put together over 2,000 yards of total offense out of a wishbone offense that threw the ball. Douglas almost gave up football to concentrate on basket-

ball, where he averaged 23 points a game as a point guard last year. Hoop powers like Syracuse and Georgetown have shown interest.

Other quarterbacks who will be playing major college ball somewhere next year include Tommy Maddox of Hurst Bell, Chris Bias of Houston Forest Brook, Andy Hollon of Rockwall, Roger Davis of Hitchcock, Narvin Callies of Boling, Calvin Murray of Dallas W.T. White, Tremain Lewis of West Orange Stark and William Shankle of Fort Bend Willowridge.

Cuero's Robert Strait dominates the class of running backs in Texas. There is a legend atmosphere around this 6-foot-2, 220-pounder. Strait is not expected to have the kind of season he had as a junior (3,500 yards and 52 TDs) because he will be a marked man. However that doesn't keep college recruiters from making every effort possible to sign this potential Heisman Trophy winner.

Outside of Strait, it's not a banner year for Texas running backs. The next best is Tiandre Sanders of Corpus Christie Carroll. Kenneth Norman of Sweetwater is an exciting runner, who gained over 2,000 yards and 35 touchdowns a year ago.

One of the most complete backs in Texas is Odell Beckham of Marshall, who happens to catch the ball just as well as he runs it. At Stringtown, they're talking about Todd Wageman,

who rushed for over 1,200 yards.

Steven Taylor at Houston King may be the best fullback in the state. Kevin Lowe of Houston Cypress Creek is right in there along with McKinney's Matthew Allen. James Miles of Odesa Permian is another fullback-type who will receive plenty of attention.

Other Texas backs to watch include Kevin Frye of Haltom, Matt Trozzo of Houston Stratford, Kevin Jefferson of Monterey and Cedric Harper of Richardson.

Since it's a great year for quarterbacks in Texas, it stands to reason that it's a great year for wide receivers. Kevin Williams of Dallas Roosevelt and Derrick Duke of Houston Reagan are two of the finest wide outs in the country. Williams comes from the same school that produced National Football League star John Jefferson, and Roosevelt coaches insist that Williams is a better receiver at this stage of his career.

Duke is one of the most interesting stories in Texas prep football this year. It wasn't until his junior year that Duke decided to play organized football. All football played before that was spent on the sandlots around Houston. Well, he must have been some sandlot player because once he got on the playing field in high school, there wasn't a defender who could play with him.

The Texas receiving corps doesn't stop with those two. Nati Valdez of Mission is an outstanding prospect in his own right. Valdez has compiled stats that most receivers only dream of. Valdez set a new Texas record for receptions in a single season with 104 as a junior while turning that into over 2,600 yards. Valdez should set two more Texas receiving records this year. Other wide receivers to watch include Jimmy French of Texarkana, Eric Weir of Houston Stratford, Kenneth Jones of Duncanville and Steve Logsdon of Conroe McCullough.

The top tight end in the Lone Star State is Steve Seagraves of North Mesquite. Aledo's Allen Webb is a tight end who is attracting attention more for his blocking ability than as a receiver. Shane Dronett of Bridge City is another fine blocking tight end

who could wind up as a defensive end or linebacker in college.

It's not a banner year for down linemen this fall in Texas. Beaumont Westbrook tackle Earl Dotson (6-5, 270, 5.2) is one of the few drawing All-American attention. Texas A&M hopes that Dotson is indeed that good because he is a lock for the Aggies. James Cargill is a great physical specimen (6-7, 285, 5.1) out of Plainview. Cargill is a late-bloomer and now has everyone hoping for a shot at this giant. At the moment, Oklahoma and Nebraska are locked in a dead heat.

The state of Texas does have two top linebackers in the country, and many feel that Jessie Armstead is the very best.

Every year, Texas seems to produce a giant offensive line prospect and this year is no exception with Joe Wheeler (6-7, 300) of Aldine MacArthur. He is a dominating blocker who can move well enough to handle himself very well in pass-blocking situations. Wheeler already has visits set with Oklahoma, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M. Dexter Wesley (6-3, 270, 5.1) of Rockdale looks perfect for the offensive guard spot in college. John Karkoska (6-3, 260, 4.9) of Aldine is an outstanding offensive tackle prospect, along with Cedric Woodson (6-3 260, 5.2) at Houston Yates.

There doesn't seem to be an all-world defensive tackle prospect in Texas, but that doesn't stop just about everybody from recruiting prospects like Stewart Tyner (6-5, 260, 4.8) of Turnhall, Jason Youngblood (6-4, 280, 5.1) of Refugio and Shannon Nevodonsky of Humble.

The best of the best, however, might just be noseguard Jerry Irons (6-3, 260, 4.9) of Conroe McCullough. Irons comes from a good bloodline as

Jerry's dad Gerald once played linebacker for the Oakland Raiders. Jerry says he's leaning out of state.

The state of Texas does have two of the top linebackers in the country, and many feel that Jessie Armstead of Dallas Carter is the very best. Because of his 4.35 speed and potential, he'll be all-world. Right now, he's only got two visits firm: Oklahoma and Florida.

Chris Rapp of Dallas W.T. White is a different type linebacker. Rapp is a throwback to the days when middle linebackers ruled.

Armstead and Rapp are the cream of the crop among linebackers, but that doesn't mean there are not other backers with major college potential. Others to watch include Bo Robinson of Bremond, Kevin Watler of Houston Stratford and Tommy Jones of W.T. White. Jones is 6-4 by 260 pounds, and some college recruiters are looking at him as a pass-rush end or a defensive tackle. Many feel Jones would also excel as an offensive guard.

The top pure defensive end prospect in Texas is Arlington's David Condon. Albert Fontenot of Houston Yates is a tall, rangy defensive end prospect who has built himself into an outstanding physical specimen. Fontenot's specialty is rushing the passer, thanks to his height (6-4) and long arms.

A prototype defensive back prospect plays with Armstead at Dallas Carter. Derric Evans (6-3, 190, 4.5) is a physical specimen who loves to blitz. Evans made 17 sacks a year ago, and through four games this year already has seven. Galveston Ball's Pat Bates is just as good even though he's a different type player. Bates plays safety like a giant at 6-5, 210 pounds. He's got 4.5 speed and even won the state long jump as a junior. Every school in the country is interested.

Grady Cavness of Sugarland Wil-lowridge is a super athlete who looks like a pure corner with 22.0 speed in the 200 meters. At Lufkin, they love Jeff Rodgers as a strong safety.

Rounding out the elite of defensive back prospects in Texas is Kendrick Randle of LaMarque, a rangy DB with good enough feet to work at corner. ■

JUNIOR VARSITY STATISTICS

TEAM STATISTICS

	Nebraska	Opponents
Touchdowns		
Rushing	14	0
Passing	6	0
Other	2	0
First Downs		
Rushing	36	10
Passing	9	4
Penalty	2	0
Total	47	14
Rushing		
Attempts	110	81
Yards Gained	860	222
Yards Lost	27	110
Net Yards	833	112
Yards/Carry	7.6	1.4
Yards/Game	416.5	56
Passing		
Cmp-Att-Int	12-20-0	17-44-5
Completion Pct	60.0	38.6
Net Yards	358	124
Yards/Attempt	17.90	2.82
Yards/Completion	29.83	7.29
Yards/Game	179.0	62.0
Rating	309.4	39.6
Total		
Offense	1191	236
Plays	130	125
Yards/Play	9.16	1.89
Yards/Game	595.5	118.0
Points Scored	154	3
Points/Game	77.0	1.5

RUSHING

Player	Att.	Gain	Loss	Net	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Van Housen	27	170	1	169	6.3	4	19
Baldwin	18	167	1	166	9.2	3	59
Grant	10	128	2	126	12.6	2	35
McDuffy	15	125	0	125	8.3	2	26
Kleidosty	13	111	3	108	8.3	2	24
Gray	13	53	6	47	3.6	0	11
James	3	38	0	38	12.7	1	22
Cornwell	3	19	2	17	5.7	0	15
Werner	1	12	0	12	12.0	0	12
Hays	2	15	5	10	5.0	0	15
McMillen	4	16	7	9	2.3	0	7

PASSING

Player	Att.	Cmp.	Pct.	Yds.	Int.	TDs	Rtng.
Grant	11	6	.545	218	0	5	371.0
James	3	3	.000	70	0	0	296.0
McMillen	5	3	.600	70	0	1	243.6
Gray	1	0	.000	0	0	0	0.0

TOTAL OFFENSE

Player	Plays	Rush.	Pass.	Total	Yds./Play
Grant	21	126	218	344	16.4
Van Housen	27	169	0	169	6.3
Baldwin	18	166	0	166	9.2
McDuffy	15	125	0	125	8.3
Kleidosty	13	108	0	108	8.3
James	6	38	70	108	18.0
McMillen	9	9	70	79	8.8
Gray	14	47	0	47	3.4
Cornwell	3	17	0	17	5.7
Werner	1	12	0	12	12.0
Hays	2	10	0	10	5.0
Devall	1	6	0	6	6.0

SCORING

Player	TDs	XP1-A	XP2-A	FG-A	Saf.	Pts.
Van Housen	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	24
Bostick	3	0-0	1-1	0-0	0	20
Baldwin	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	18
Hoover	0	12-14	0-0	1-1	0	15
Grant	2	0-0	0-1	0-0	0	12
Kleidosty	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	12
McDuffy	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	12
Legette	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
James	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
McGriff	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Langemeier	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Parrella	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Hassker	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	6
Burns	0	3-3	0-0	0-0	0	3
Humphrey	0	2-3	0-0	0-0	0	2

INTERCEPTION RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Carmer	1	53	53.0	0	53
Legette	1	27	27.0	1	27
Tingelhoff	1	23	23.0	0	23
Mullen	1	17	17.0	0	17
Bantner	1	10	10.0	0	10

PUNT RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Carmer	3	46	15.3	0	18
Duin	2	24	12.0	0	24
Bostick	3	5	1.7	0	6
McGriff	0	11	0.0	1	11

PUNTING

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	Bkd.	Lg.
Humphrey	1	44	44.0	0	44
Liliedahl	1	27	27.0	0	27

KICK RETURNS

Player	Num.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs	Lg.
Bostick	1	61	61.0	0	61
Gray	1	26	26.0	0	26
Kleidosty	1	14	14.0	0	14

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Player	Pos.	Tackles				QB Sacks	Fumbles		Blkd. Kicks	Passes	
		Unast.	Assist	Total	Loss		Csd.	Rec.		Bkup.	Int.
Wightman	OLB	11	4	15	1-10	1-10	0	0	0	0	0
Liewer	DT	8	1	9	2-5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hitchcock	MG	6	3	9	4-27	3-20	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	DT	6	3	9	3-10	0	0	1	0	0	0
Petko	LB	4	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Duin	SS	6	2	8	2-16	0	0	0	2	1	0
Zahn	LB	6	2	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bartling	LB	4	4	8	1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tingelhoff	SS	6	1	7	2-6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leader	OLB	6	1	7	1-13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rohrer	DT	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pollard	CB	6-0	6	1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spitzenberg	OLB	5	1	6	1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmer	S	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Bentner	DT	4	2	6	1-3	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hilman	MG	5	0	5	1-9	1-9	0	0	0	0	0
Grass	CB	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	CB	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goddard	OLB	3	1	4	1-7	1-7	0	0	0	0	0
Wendland	OLB	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goff	CB	2	0	2	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legette	CB	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
McGriff	S	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crawford	LB	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hoover	PK	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preissler	CB	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mullen	CB	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

ASK TOM

Q: Have you visited with any of last year's seniors who have made it with their National Football League clubs? Do the former players who are now in the pros ever get a chance to come back home and spend time with the coaches? Good luck this season. We'll be rooting for you in the nation's capitol. Jimmy Voss, Washington, D.C.

A: Oh, it varies a lot. Neil Smith was back through here on a day off a couple of weeks ago, and it was nice to get a chance to say hello to him. I talked to most of them during the off-season. But during the season, I don't see them much because we're all pretty busy with football, and some of them are still going to school. But Bill Lewis and I did visit on the phone a couple of games into this season. And, yes, they do keep in touch, and it's nice to visit with them from time to time.

Q: It looks like Oklahoma State and Colorado are off to good starts this fall. I was really glad to see the Buffs beat Iowa. Do you think the Big Eight Conference race could be as close as it was 12 years ago when everyone was bunched together at the top in 1976? Even if it is, I'm sure we'll whip 'em all. Leonard Plock, Sidney, Neb.

A: I think there are some real good teams in the conference this year. I think Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma State will be very good. I think Missouri is a team that very well could figure in there, too. Even though they lost to Houston rather badly, they've got good players at Missouri and should be a good team. It's hard to say exactly how close everybody will finish, but I think it's safe to say whoever wins the Big Eight this year is going to have to beat some very good teams.

Q: Some colleges seem to have lost quite a few players again to Proposition 48, and they're still having problems with it, but I think Nebraska only had a few. Do the Huskers have a hard-and-fast rule on how to ap-



proach the whole grade situation when recruiting starts? Marvin Kositzky, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

A: We don't go after anyone who we think doesn't have at least a reasonable chance to make it. If a player's got a 13 or 14 on the ACT, a 650 on the SAT and good core courses and appears to be in a position to make it, then we may stick with him. So far, we've had four non-qualifiers. It was pretty close. We had been given information on two of them that they actually made it, but it turned out that wasn't factual. But most of them missed by about only one point on the ACT. We just don't recruit anybody who's definitely not going to make it.

Q: Even though it's early, can you say yet who of the freshmen has come forward as a pleasant surprise? Also, how is the player, Victor Stachmas, doing with his treatments? Is he expected to play anytime this year? We're all pulling for him. Robert Moran, Omaha, Neb.

A: We've been pleased with the whole group, so it's hard to point out individuals. I would guess that a walkon who develops into a pretty good player might qualify as a

pleasant surprise, but, there again, we consider them pretty good players just to be in the walk-on program. I think Jerry Kleidosky is a very fine player for us at fullback. Paul Wightman, a defensive end, is a fine player. John Parella, of course, we realized was a good player. He came to us via a letter-of-intent to Colorado, but he's a fine player. And Terris Chorney at center is an exceptionally fine player. Of course, we expect the scholarship players to be good. We thought Mike Grant was a good quarterback when we recruited him, but he may have even exceeded expectations. Everybody else has pretty much lived up to what we thought they could do.

About Victor, he's gone down to Houston for treatments for the leukemia, and we're hopeful that everything goes well for him. Our first concern for Victor is as a human being and a person. On the football part, the plan is that he will enroll next January following an okay from his doctors.

Q: I have a 13-year-old son who is interested in attending your Big Red football camp next summer. Are there any restrictions on age or skill level? Also, where and when should I write to apply? Linda Schleuter, Springfield, Mo.

A: It's not really a matter of age. We have a session in late June just for young men who are going into the eighth and ninth grades. The key there is whether or not he'll be in the eighth grade next fall. Then we also have three sessions in early June for high school players — that is, young men who'll be entering their sophomore, junior or senior years next fall.

Editor's note: For more information, write Big Red Football School, 217 South Stadium Bldg., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588. And, yes, it would be wise to write soon because the camps traditionally sell out.

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, address them to "Ask Tom Osborne," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■



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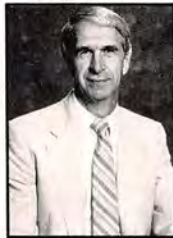
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